

Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

April 17, 2000 www.macleans.ca

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Wild Markets

GUN CONTROL

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Sleep, that is

Millions aren't
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The union makes them strong

I participated in my first union meeting last week.

It was very predictable. There was always dissenting voice in the room. The members complained about their take-home pay. They said they are underpaid by the Canadian public. And they criticized the government for inaction on key issues.

This was not a meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress, mind you. It was CEO Summit 2000, organized by the Business Council on National Issues, the voice of the Corporate Establishment. The Toronto union did have some distinctive attributes. Unlike, say, the CLC, BCNI members wear their uniforms—mainly blue—every day from the workplace. They favour

packages and billion-dollar corporate overruns, realize they have a credibility problem. Michael Phelps, chairman and CEO of Westcoast Energy Inc., noted that the organization needs to take its strength of lower taxes to cred-



BCNI in conversation, away a dissenting voice

itself over employees. As official policy, BCNI opposes "arbitrary and industrial development policies that focus on subsidizing jobs that simply strip people where they are." And instead of working conditions and seniority rights, the group's mantra is, lower the deficit, cut taxes.

BCNI is a pretty well-serviced group. The members, with their million-dollar

pay wage earners "Without that," he warned, "we will fail."

And yet, the business leaders did deliver some strong messages effectively. John Roth, CEO of Noriel Networks Corp., noted that the pace of change is now such that his company effectively does two budgets each year—one for the first six months, the other for the last half. In the age of the Internet, Canada needs to

be more agile, and her companies large, as compete in the world. That course, he noted, has allowed Noriel to create 24,000 jobs in Canada with \$3.5 billion in purchases—although only five per cent of its revenues come from Canada. Kenneth Courrie, a Canadian who is the Tokyo-based vice-chairman of Goldman Sachs Asia, supported the theme. "We have to become a fast country."

The challenge for BCNI is clear. Governments rightly ask, why aren't Canadian companies spending more on research and development? And if money goes to tax cuts and the debt, how will the country afford Medicare and other social policies? In sum, how can the business establishment convince Canadians that big is better—that small is not beautiful? A rough sell in most union halls.

Robert Lewis

response@theeditorial to comment on From the Editor

Newsroom Notes Perchance to dream

Vancouver Bureau Chief Jennifer Hunter brings a personal interest to her cover report this week on sleep-deprived modern society (page 42). "Sleeplessness seems to run in my family," says the long-time misanthrope, who has a daughter, 14, and son, 11. "My mom, my aunt and my sister all have difficulty sleeping through the night."



Hunter sleeps

When Hunter told friends and relatives she was writing about sleep problems, out spilled their tales of restless nights and personal strategies for dealing with their inability to sleep. (Her aunt, for instance,

hikes barefoot in the middle of the night, "and it's always delicious.")

Those stories had Hunter marvel-

ling that so many people function on so little rest. "If sleep is supposed to be a natural state," she wonders, "why do so many of us have trouble achieving it?" In her interviews with experts on the subject, she found many of them are driven by that very question. Her stories were edited by Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall, who has a great appreciation for CBC Radio One's Channel Africa broadcast at 5 a.m. The cover and inside pages were designed by Associate Art Director Gisèle Subzini.

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Klein's challenge

The major problem with Alberta's proposed health-care privatization legislation, Bill 11, is that it tries to hide the real reason why it was introduced ("The Alberta man," Special Report, April 3). Section 1 says, "No person shall operate a private hospital in Alberta." That's really what the majority of Albertans want—no private, for-profit hospitals. But Section 2 (b) allows "an approved



Klein's should Albertans be surprised?

surgical facility." Most people realize that an approved surgical facility is no private, for-profit hospital under a different name. Then or Ralph Klein loudly proclaims that "approved surgical facilities" will not lead to two-tier American-style health care. With all the changes he has made without consultation with the people, with all the cutting of medical facilities and loss of jobs by nurses and other health-care workers, with all the billions his government has handed to private industry over the

years, we tend to be just a little bit suspicious that his assurances aren't worth the videotape they are recorded on.

Don Mayne, Edmonton

With Bill 11 a watershed in Canadian health care, it is important to recognize that all Canadians are affected by for-profit hospitals in Alberta. Despite this, federal Health Minister Allan Rock's response is rhetorical at best, with serious flaws. First, the Liberals are complicit in Bill 11's passage, dating back to a 1996 dispute over for-profit eye clinics in Calgary. Then, the Liberals cut a secret, 12-principle deal that forms the building block for Bill 11. By allowing doctors to practice in public and for-profit systems, the Liberals sowed the seeds Ralph Klein now saps. Rock says he will wait for Alberta to pass Bill 11 before he decides whether to act. He risks NAFTA taking effect, meaning Alberta law will not only affect us all, but Rock won't be able to act even if he wants to. All Canadians should be concerned about the federal government's complicity in Bill 11's creation and absence from the resulting debate.

Judy Wasylyuk-Lutz, MP, NDP Health Critic, Ottawa

Health care in Canada has been in a crisis for several years. Now, the Ontario government is spending money on TV ads blaming the federal government for the health-care problems, and the federal government is spending money on newspaper ads rebutting the Ontario claims. Neither claim nor rebuttal is correct. The federal and provincial ministries of health might do well to reform their cabinets and their caucuses that the citizens want access, not ads. Let their leaders go on their own destructive paths. They may find a case on both their horses in the coming elections.

David Sonoma, Lombard, Ont.

The cost of gas

Rene Lasser's "The reality of gas prices" (April 3) was a welcome change from the usual ranting about the recent high cost of gas. I would take a step further and point out that some of us would like to see even higher gas prices in an effort to curtail people's willy-nilly approach to gas consumption and its environmental effects, and to encourage walking, biking and the use of public transport and natural lawn mowers.

Katherine Kilpatrick, Kingston, Ont.

You mention that Alberta's bid to expand private health care is, in large part, a response to Calgary's Health Resources Group, which wants to perform overnight procedures at its facilities in a former public hospital. It is interesting to note that the HRG's chairman is the husband of Joseph Bageant, an MLA in the Klein government. The same Peter Bageant is also a columnist for the *Calgary Herald*, a newspaper that provides supportive coverage of the government's private health-care initiatives.

Rene Chiswick, Calgary

Thirsting for water

Andrew Phillips dismisses my contention that water is increasingly being viewed as a commodity to be sold on the open market for profit and calls the thrust of bulk water exports a "phony war" ("They don't want our water," March 27). Perhaps he's been in Washington too long. Last year, Newfoundland came within a hair's breadth of allowing the commercial export of water from Gaspere Lake. Similar export schemes have been proposed in Ontario and British Columbia. And the day after the International Joint Commission opened the door to water exports from the Great Lakes with its recent report, a Greek shipping company, Aquarius Water Transportation, declared it is ready and eager to start exporting Canadian water with massive water bags. Phillips is also wrong that trade agreements don't threaten Canada's water. (Remember similar

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Overture

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
What Shouldn't Desist

Over and Under Achievers

Bay Street: home of slumps, jumps, grumps

Fit back in Winnipeg; job back in Labrador-land, back's a lady in hockey gear

- ◆ **Those 'Pik' 'til blessed Libs:** Fanzal but mermaid governing, patty proves you don't have to be good to be lucky as opponents self-deconstruct. Come in from the dark, Joe Clark, you're the best! Kudos, Frank Klutz!
- ◆ **Not-looking environmentalists:** Well, there may be some good reason why Leo D'Arcy and Bill Clinton spent an hour in White House talking ecology.
- ◆ **Women hockey players:** International Toronto-area journey shows how to play game with precision, without cheap-shot antics. Give them A League of Their Own.
- ◆ **The stock market:** Stomping, High-tech investors dumping. Unethical stocks jumping. Portfolio managers, harrumphing. Everyone chills! April is always all-off time.
- ◆ **Bill Gates:** Golden Greek loses key Microsoft case and \$18 billion in personal stock value in same week. Maybe he'll soothe anxious web.
- ◆ **Marijuana:** 36 declared the most potent in world. Hmmm, you there in Winnipeg, would that be the Beatles White album you're always playing backwards?

Over Again

Canada: 'It's a land of sky'

Canadian art lovers have had ample opportunity lately to view the work of Doris McCarthy, the 69-year-old Toronto-based landscape artist who had solo shows in Budapest, Edinburgh, Winnipeg, Toronto and Kleinburg, Ont., over the past months—most were touring. Between April and October, McCarthy, whose solo show at \$5,000, will paint in Italy, around Ontario and Japan. Also, honoured by Senior Writer Diana Smith at her travelling home stay at Scarborough Heights, McCarthy outlined her plans to keep painting at age 100—hardly preposterous.



McCarthy, big plans for decades ahead

"Landscape is endlessly beautiful to me. When I'm overseas, and less familiar with the country, I'm more in awe of it. I ask myself: what makes this place unique? In Canada, I'm free to be creative and take liberties. I've made a point of painting in every province. In Ontario, there's a line of frost everywhere because of the sun. The Prairies have their own magic. It's

really a land of sky. I'm a sucker for the North. You get the bones of the country showing up there. You see the rocks and the mountains as they were formed by the glaciers. Every time I start a painting, it's a fresh challenge and I don't know quite where it's going. I interact with it constantly and it nourishes me as I develop it. A good painting communicates that energy."

Photo: David Hume

Home a-foam (again)

A driving economy

When it comes to spending habits, Canadian consumers would rather drive than drink, eat, buy clothes or just about anything else. Of every 1000 of retail expenditures in 1999, Statistics Canada says Canadians spent \$35.70 on motor vehicles, parts

and services, \$19.50 on food and non-alcoholic drinks, and \$9.70 on clothing and footwear. Hair, furniture and electronics ranked \$7.80, alcohol and tobacco combined were \$5.70, and prescription and over-the-counter drugs accounted for \$4.50. The biggest spending jump came, not surprisingly, in gas: Gas and oil, up 12.3 per cent because of rising prices in the last half of the year.



Virry monument: for 3,598 dead

Overview

Blood and battle, relived

Thirty young Canadians learn and teach about Virry Ridge

Eighty-three years ago this week, Canadian troops fought a five-day battle at Virry Ridge, France, that marked a turning point in the country's history. It was the first time in the First World War that the Canadian Corps divisions fought as a single force. They captured a vital area of the front, securing where the French and British failed. That helped gain Canada a seat at the Versailles Peace Treaty talks at war's end.

Now, 30 Canadian university students are reminding others of those efforts. From April to November, they work as guides at the on-site memorial, overseen by the federal department of veterans affairs. About 750,000 visitors tour the preserved tunnels and trenches annually. The students find the experience deeply moving. "People come here to cry," says Corina Grant, 25,

of Quebec City, a Laval University graduate. "Being here makes you so proud of being Canadian." Sam Pate, 23, of Wilfrid, Ont., called his first guiding experience "terrifying" because "more than anything, I felt responsible to the men who died here." Says Marc-André Hache, 25, a University of New Brunswick graduate from Fredericton: "We're not just guides; we're ambassadors for Canada." And reminders of the 3,598 Canadians in that battle who died before their time.

For more about Virry Ridge, www.vic-acc.ca. To apply as a tour guide: http://jobs.gc.ca/employment/vic_e.htm. Applications must be fluently bilingual, in person only and have good experience.

Michael Sneider

Mis for Montreal

So you're spending the weekend in Montreal, craving St. Denis Street and smoking, and you want to really blend in with the hip locals. Try these phrases:

- Je suis full fric.** "I'm very frustrated."
- Ça n'a pas raje.** "It makes no sense."
- "Çap"** is short for "support."
- C'est pache.** "It's boring."
- Je capote.** "I'm stressed."
- C'est des bon bon.** "It's really good."

Overbills

"I know, Sheila, I've toured the world, I've seen everything, I've done it all—and now all I want is my star on Canada's Walk of Fame"—except from a speech written for Rolling Stone Mick Jagger by Sheila Copps's heritage department. He refused to deliver it.



"The vision thing, I know [the media are] making it a big issue. I just disagree. For myself, I don't like to wear a voice."

Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Bryan Barend, whose injury may cost him the sight in one eye and his career

"We've had a couple of very high visible, almost freakish, accidents that were terrible for the people who sustained the injuries. That's not representative. I think a little bit too much is being made of the injury situation."

MHL commissioner Gary Bettman

Overheard: John Manley

Is John Manley preparing to become finance minister—with Jean Chrétien's approval? Manley embraced seething, pro-business, pro-tax-cut themes in a speech last week to members of the Business Council on National Issues. That was in contrast to the combative tone of Paul Martin towards BCNI—the lobby group for CEOs of large corporations—and was "clearly designed to reassure the business community," said one chief executive. Manley pointedly stressed "my road" as to

finance minister, adding: "My door has remained open to business."

Another attendee was Kevin Lynch, recently appointed deputy minister of finance, who is considered a watchdog for the Prime Minister. Government watches say Manley's performance was aimed at reassuring markets about recession plans if Martin goes. Manley asked by a television audience about such ambitions, smiled, saying: "The Finance job is one you neither seek, nor decline—if you're asked to take it."

Mary Juergens

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PASSAGES

Disclosed: Roberta Bondar, 54, the first Canadian woman in space, is receiving a federal subsidy of close to \$1 million for a \$2.6-million photography exhibition. She will put up the rest of the money along with support from some business concerns. Bondar's collection of 115 photographs, taken in 41 national parks, will be launched at Ottawa's Museum of Nature in June before touring the country. Other photographers challenged her credentials and criticized the grant, saying it is unprecedented for their profession.

Resigned: Alf Bognady, 53, left as director of the Vancouver Art Gallery after serving less than four years. Although the announcement cited medical reasons, sources say Bognady, a native of Lethbridge, Alta., was fighting with the gallery board over a proposed exhibit of photographs of famous Canadian women by pop star Beyoncé Adams. The exhibit would benefit breast cancer research, but Bognady questions its artistic merit.

Resigned: Finnish conductor Jukka Santtilä, 43, will not renew his contract with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra when it expires in July 2002. His six years as musical director have been complicated by problems, including an 11-week musicians' strike and unstable financing, and he waged a losing battle to improve acoustics at the TSO's home, Roy Thomson Hall. Santtilä also said he would rather raise his three young children in Europe than North America.

Retired: Calgary Flames goaltender Grant Fuhr, 37, is leaving the NHL after 18 seasons. Fuhr, who said he can no longer count the number of times he has undergone surgery, suffered from knee injuries that caused him to miss most of this season. The Spruce Grove, Alta., native won the Stanley Cup five times with the Edmonton Oilers, and ranks sixth among goalies in career winning percentage. He plans to try for a spot on the Canadian professional golf circuit.



Appointed: The Liberals padded their majority in the Senate with the appointment of just one man: **Tammy Banks**, 63, of Edmonton, and former Jack Wells, also 63, who recently served as lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan. Banks started on *The Jimmy Bush Show* on CBC TV from 1968 to 1983. The new senator got the government a safety cushion in case some Liberals in the upper house break ranks over the clarity bill on Quebec secession.

Died: Lee Petty, 86, was patriarch of the stock-car racing dynasty that includes son **Richard**—winner of four Winston Cup titles—and grandson **Ryan**, and great-grandson **Adam**, who made his Winston Cup debut this month. In 1959, Petty won the first Daytona 500, and he was a three-time stock-car champion on what has become known as the Winston Cup circuit. He retired in 1964, three years after a serious crash. He died in Greensboro, N.C., following surgery for a stomach aneurysm.

Died: Habib Bourguiba, 96, former president of Tunisia, ended his country's colonial status. After founding a 1930s nationalist movement dedicated to ending rule by France, Bourguiba achieved total independence for Tunisia in 1956. Prior to that, he spent 11 years in French prisons for sedition. He took a secular approach to his Muslim country, promoting gender equality and discouraging religious fanaticism. He was president from 1956 until a 1987 coup led by then-Prime Minister Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Hospitalized last month for lung surgery, he died last week in his home town, Monastir.

Retired: Three-time LPGA Tour winner **Lisa Walton** of Prince Rupert, B.C., is leaving the tour. The 16-year veteran, who now lives in Tampa, Fla., was unable to fully recover from the effects of a debilitating wrist injury suffered in early 1999.

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- 3 Include strength training twice a week. Muscle is denser than fat, takes up less room, and burns fat and calories.
- 4 You are more likely to stick with a program if you don't consider a strain. Find an activity that works for you. Keep it and have fun.



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Our Monty Python CEOs

Among those who treasure old Monty Python sketches, a favorite routine concerns a bunch of rich old guys reminiscing about the days when they were younger and poorer. "When I was a lad," relates one, "we were so poor we lived in ash." These unappreciative men then nod, and before you know it, the crowd is off, usually outdoing one another in apocalyptic visions of life: one lived under a shoe, another inside a shoe, another in a sock and a shoe, until the exchange collapses beneath the weight of excessive distress.

John Cleese, Eric Idle and the Python lads split up a long time ago, but if you wear similar outfits, you might study almost any document put out by the Business Council on National Issues, the lobby group of Canadian CEOs. The difference is that the Pythons spun gloomy tales about the past, while with BCNI, life in the proverbial shoebox is always just a few economic hiccups ahead—wides, of course, the federal government likes to sit at once. In the early 1990s, BCNI's big issue was national debt; the basic phrase was that we would live as well as any nation and require a bailout by the International Monetary Fund. Then, even though our debt level remained virtually unchanged, the BCNI shifted issues and began promoting tax cuts. It was abrupt and unexplained, like little kids who move from adoring the *Melvin* one day to ignoring them the next.

So months ago, the BCNI had that unless Canada cut costs at once, "the case of inaction are likely to be severe within a remarkably short period of time." Last week, it declared that Canada's economy is headed for the tank because of "breath-taking sluggishness and inertia" in the last federal budget—which cut taxes by pretty much the percentage the BCNI wanted. They urged another round of immediate cuts, elimination of regional economic subsidies, and made a newsgay nod to their old passion for the need to pay down the debt more quickly.

There's nothing wrong with any of those suggestions—other than the fact that when the right idea come from the wrong quarters, they debate the currency. When CEOs get weepy about the tax cuts for high-income earners, it's hard to call their reasons selfish. When two of every five CEOs in their survey muse that they might leave Canada, you wonder whether you might help them pack their bags and drive them to the airport. In speeches at their conference last week, you would have waited in vain for a CEO to say as much as one nice sentence about the country in which they have become wealthy and their companies have made healthy profits. (Jean Monty of BCE is a mean and decent guy personally, but it's more than a little offensive that he co-signed such a whingeing document weeks after personally donating \$67.7 million

in stock options. What were his media advisers thinking, and moreover, is any CEO of an established company worth that much?) It's one thing to risk your personal fortune on a company—such as Conrad Black has done—but another to get that kind of payout simply for successfully steering a blue-chip firm in boom times. Sure, Monty has made some good deals, but BCE's Sympatico online service is a flop, the jury's out on its Espresso tactile system and the wisdom of its pending CTV acquisition—and Bell has ended in broad value by contracting out customer service to subsidiaries that perform them poorly.

But Monty isn't the only offender. If Canada lags in Internet use, a key reason is the frightened paralysis among members of the business community. A report earlier this year by the Boston Consulting Group concluded that conservative investors were as much a problem as rates. Venture capital investment jumped in the past year, but the average deal size is still only \$3 million, compared with \$10 million in the United States. As the BCG report observed, "Canadian companies need to move quickly and decisively to protect their home markets and expand into new markets." And consider the avowed reliance on whipsawing stock options for senior executives, often tied to profit performance. The easiest way to produce big numbers than it is to slash spending, even if it means mortgaging the future by spending less on research.

CEOs love to bang on about how government should be run like a business—as if you could simply fire all the unemployed (come to think of it, they're already doing that) and export the sick to cut social-spending costs and make Canada fiscally profitable. The reality is that policy differences between the Libs and the business community are more about cutting and scope than real ideological divides. The one scenario that has a beef is the banks. After the recent merger, CEOs like the Royal Bank's John Githens have some right to grouse.

It's always easy to get mad about government waste—such as the egregious examples found in the billions spent annually by Human Resources Development Canada. But when it emerges that many of Canada's largest corporations accepted grants from HRDC, their CEOs lose any moral authority they might have had on the issue. And while they're down on government spending in general, you don't see them calling for closure of the Federal Business Development Bank, or an end to grants and interest-free loans to business, or...

To cap it off, the BCNI report observes self-pityingly that "the unspoken sentiment is that rich people are to be envied [and] that big corporations cannot be trusted." Geez, you figure? If only the rest of us had any idea how hard it must be, living your life inside a shoebox.



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Barbara Amiel

Why we need private medicine

My sister's father-in-law died recently. He died in a British hospital weeks earlier than he should have. His family flew over from Canada and found him neglected and dehydrated, all because of Britain's National Health Service guidelines. Those guidelines make it clear that prioritizing the life of elderly people wastes beds. The old will die anyway so why give them funds?

I grew up believing in the British National Health Service. When we immigrated to Canada, my family's one big fear was our health care. We were wrong. Even if you had no insurance, the safety net was there. Then that poisonous duo of Pierre Trudeau and health minister Monique Bégin came along, promising everyone "free" health care in exchange for the end of extra-billing by doctors. Now, Canada gives Britain a run as the worst place to get ill.

The only thing that can help the Canadian health-care system is a return to the mix of private and public medical care of the '60s, and with a, full private insurance scheme. Even with a return to extra-billing, there will still be huge problems to overcome because of new insurance and expensive drugs. But unless we do this, nothing will improve the system. Doctors don't want to work harder when their income is capped and their lives smothered by paperwork. Public hospitals are inefficiently run. Nurses are increasingly lazier and indifferent. Health is too precious to be treated via a civil service monopoly with all its cost indifference.

Raise the possibility of private medicine (with a full public safety net) and critics speak with horror of a "two-tier system" in which the poor will have inferior care. The crucial point is that Canadians have a two-tier system now—in quality.

Scarcely a month goes by without someone in Canada—often a complete stranger—contacting me and begging for help with a hospital. They know that in Canada it's money but who you know that matters. Sometimes I can help because my husband publishes sometimes I can help because I have relatives in Canada who are doctors or work in hospital administration. Most often, I can help because I know someone who knows someone. I got a call from a Toronto woman in her 60s who had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. Her mother had died from the disease, her sister had it. But her doctor couldn't get an appointment with an oncologist for three months. She was frantic. By luck, I knew a doctor who could pull strings. She saw an oncologist in a week.

A year ago, a friend of mine died in Toronto. He was a splendid man in his 60s and he died before his time. Blood had been bleeding into his Foley catheter bag as he grew weaker. He was supposed to have prostate and plaquid but nothing was happening. The nurses and his haematologist

had been notified, but four days on and no haematologist. Turns out he was in Germany and the doctor covering for him hadn't been notified. I got a desperate telephone call in London from his daughter and this time my husband managed to get through to the head of the hospital who—to give him his due—was thoroughly shocked. The medical conference the wife had been urgently requesting was scheduled. The family thought of saving but all the relevant medical records had gone "missing." We attended his funeral on a bleak day in March, 1999.

I'm sure readers have dozens of stories of their own. But let's focus on a couple of aspects of the problem. First, let's end the outrage in Alberta. We've had private clinics doing medical procedures, such as abortions, for ages with the full endorsement of the left. No one objected. Everyone took it for granted that those clinics would carry out insured services by private providers. Let them expand this to other procedures.

There are dozens of problems with the medicare dream. One major area is the quality of nursing and a guess under the heading of "there is no free lunch." Nursing a service under and tough as slates. It is strenuous, emotionally exhausting, disgusting in part and very hard work. In societies like ours, where people can find more congenial occupations pretty easily, mediocre and higher-quality people naturally choose less strenuous work—unless they are stupid (and I've encountered the best lab technician ever at Toronto's Wellesley Hospital and the finest post-op nursing care in Calgary's Foothills hospital). What has radically changed hospital care, among other things, is not the shortage of money but the general improvement of career opportunities available to a wide variety of men and women. By now, only a tiny minority of the most dedicated become nurses, lab technicians, hospital dietitians and so forth. The result is that today you often get the less capable in those jobs.

Now you can't complain about this. You can't argue against the fact that there are unopposed job opportunities for large numbers of people so they don't have to accept night shifts and the emotional wear and tear of watching people suffer and die. But it has resulted in the crucial area of nursing being filled with increasing numbers of people who can't cut the mustard, as they say.

Our best doctors go to America now. But most Canadians can't afford to follow. When our increasingly elderly population becomes ill or frail, dearly having paid their taxes all their lives, they deserve more than to be put at the bottom of waiting lists or sold unceremoniously to the evils of two-tier medicine. We've got two men all right and the elderly are definitely on the bottom.

Canadian companies have the technology that can help curb weapon-related violence, and the United States wants it. The innovations may also help the White House bypass the thorny American debate over gun control.

GUN SMARTS

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

Magnified 10 times on a computer screen in the basement of a nondescript Montreal office building, the image of a .45-caliber bullet casing resembles nothing so much as the surface of a remote planet. There are denta that look like craters, bumps that resemble hills, lines that could be canals. Robert Walsh runs a pixelated finger over the screen. "Every bullet, every casing, has unique markings," he says. "What you're looking for is the similarities."

Walsh is president of Forensic Technology Inc., the pioneer in computerized systems that allow investigators to link spent bullets and casing left at a crime scene to the gun from which they were fired. Each gun leaves special marks on its ammunition—a pattern experts call its "ballistic fingerprint"—that can be used to solve crimes that once stumped police. Forensic Technology has been selling the system to law-enforcement agencies in 14 countries and 26 American states for the past seven years. And now, with the debate on how to control gun violence once again heating up in the United States, the company is set to take a great leap forward.

The White House has embraced Walsh's technology and wants to spend an additional \$45.7 million on it as part of a package of measures to fight gun crime. And two states—New York and Maryland—include it in new gun-control proposals introduced in March.

Those steps are the biggest boost so far for a Montreal firm that leads the world in taking the science of ballistics into the digital age. Police forces from Oregon to Israel depend on Walsh's system but it is little-known in Canada, where it is installed only in Quebec's provincial police laboratory in east-end Montreal. Walsh calls his company's low profile at home "a bit embarrassing," but the explanation is simple. Canadian law of gun violence is so low that law enforcement agencies have trouble getting the funds to buy his equipment—known as IBIS, for Integrated Ballistic Identification System. "It's a bit weird," says Mike McLean, product manager for IBIS, as he shows off the system in the company's basement workshop. "We don't have the gun crime, but we're the leaders in the technology to fight it."

At the same time, other technologies are emerging that may offer a way for Americans to curb their epidemic of gun violence despite the bitter standoff between gun-control advocates and the powerful U.S. gun lobby. Instead of showing over third arguments about Americans' right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to their Constitution, governments and firearms manufacturers are moving ahead with ways to make guns less likely to fall into the

wrong hands—and less likely to hurt someone if they do.

The latest hope is so-called smart-gun technology: weapons that can be fired only by their owners. In a landmark deal reached in mid-March between the White House and Smith & Wesson Corp., the biggest U.S. handgun maker, the company pledged to begin selling a personalized gun within three years. That year, too, has a Canadian connection: Mytec Technologies Inc. of Toronto is supplying Smith & Wesson with a scanning device that will "unlock" a weapon by recognizing its owner's fingerprint. "It can be fired only by the person whose fingerprint is registered as the owner," explains Frank Chen, Mytec's executive vice-president.

Those measures are controversial to some gun-control advocates, developing "smart guns" is a frankly dumb idea designed to perpetuate products that remain inherently dangerous. Often seen them as a promising way forward at a time when Congress is deadlocked on the issue, trouble to agree on even modest new gun-control measures despite a horrifying series of deadly shootings at schools and offices over the past 18 months. The theme, though, is still here—and gaining honor. In a presidential election year, Democrats see gun control as a winning issue, especially among women voters whose polls show have been particularly outraged by the seemingly unstoppable violence. The anniversary of the worst incident—the murder of 13 people at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., last April 20—is around the corner. And on May 14, Mother's Day, women plan to rally against gun violence in Washington and 30 other cities in what is being billed as the "Million Moms March."

There is passion on the other side, as well. The National

Rifle Association, the archenemy defender of Americans' right to bear arms, has increased its membership from 2.8 to 3.2 million; its gun-owners' magazine against more controls. NRA president Charlton Heston, the onetime actor, has devoted the campaign to curb guns as a "culture war" being waged against "God-fearing, law-abiding, Christian, middle-class, Protestant, admittedly heterosexual, gun-owning" Americans. And its executive vice-president, Wayne LaPierre, cranked up the rhetoric again in March, accusing President Bill Clinton of failing to enforce hundreds of existing gun laws while calling for more. Clinton, LaPierre charged, "is willing to accept a certain level of killing to further his political agenda."

With that kind of language still dominating the debate, it's no wonder the search is on for ways to limit gun violence—which resulted in more than 32,000 deaths across the United States in 1997, a rate 15 times greater than all other industrialized countries combined. The IBIS system developed in Montreal is one of those ways. Walsh, a 57-year-old engineer, became involved in ballistics in the early 1980s. His company, Walsh Automation Inc., specialized in "machine vision" technology used for quality control in manufacturing, including such arcane applications as counting the number of chocolate chips in mass-produced cookies. A ballistics expert suggested that expertise could be used to speed up the painstaking process of comparing bullets and shell casings found at crime scenes. By attaching a spent bullet to one use fired from a weapon, investigators have long been able to link a criminal to his crime—but it was a slow procedure that relied on a firearms examiner looking for similarities under a special microscope.

Walsh formed a new company, Forensic Technology, to develop a computer program able to compare bullets and casings



"Smart guns" are not a new idea: proposals have been around for years

much faster. His IBIS system uses a digital camera to repeatedly scan the unique markings etched into a bullet by the impact of a gun's firing pin, ejector and barrel grooves. It translates those images into a mathematical algorithm—to one of a kind "ballistic fingerprint"—and stores them in its database. While a human examiner could spend months comparing a bullet from a crime scene to scores of possible matches, IBIS can do it in less than an hour. "It pulls the needle out of the haystack," says Walsh.

The system was a hit among law-enforcement agencies, even at \$874,000 per unit. But making sure it was widely adopted was a political as well as a technical challenge. IBIS was embraced by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and

Fire as well as the New Orleans force brought it with a grant from the ATF in 1996, by helping solve the shocking death of a 12-year-old boy. "It's one of the only government programs I've seen that actually does what it's supposed to do," says Rice. "It really works."

IBIS had another high-profile success in 1997, when ATF examiners were able to identify weapons used in a mass-slaughter 260 people in Cronin in 1991. Their evidence was used to convict one of the fallen before the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague. But funding between the ATF and FBI hampered wider adoption of the system. In December, 1998, Walsh even hired a former Republican congressman from Iowa, Jim Lightfoot, to negotiate the tricky shoals of official Washington. "If it wasn't for the persistence of Bob Walsh, it would never have gone through," Lightfoot says now. The payoff came three months ago, when Clinton announced that he wants to spend an additional \$43.7 million to start creating a single database of ammunition "fingerprints," ditching the FBI-approved technology in favour of IBIS.

The overall goal, administration officials say, is that gun makers would record information from each weapon they make after it is test-fired at the factory. That would be fed into a growing data bank that police forces could use to trace bullets back to the gun from which they were fired, employing a new program under development at Forensic Technology's west-end Montreal headquarters called VSN (for Virtual Serial Number). IBIS and VSN will be combined into one unified program, which Walsh diplomatically says "will take the best from both systems." But it represented a big victory for his company, which plans to expand from 70 to 100 employees by year's end and open a new office in Florida. Aside from helping investigators solve more crimes, the expanded database may make it easier to pinpoint which dealers are supplying a disproportionately large number of weapons to crim-

inals—and then track down on them. Frank Sauer, a senior FBI official working to implement the new system, puts it like this: "The United States has this summer called gun violence, and this is one way to get away from the gun-control versus gun-rights debate and out of the blood supply."

Other new solutions are also intended to skirt the politically radioactive gun-control issue. "Smart guns" are not a new idea, proposals have been around for years. But the Clinton administration has committed another \$34.6 million in grants to gun manufacturers to develop the weapons, which could be fired only by their owners. The idea is to reduce certain kinds of gun deaths—such as those caused by children getting hold of their parents' guns, guns bent on suicide and criminals turning weapons against their owners. With some 192 million old-style firearms already owned by Americans, even supporters acknowledge the benefits will be gradual. But, says Stephen Terry, director of the Center for Gun Policy and Research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, "we've got to start—and we should start now because we have such an unacceptable level of deaths from guns."

Proposals for smart or personalized firearms come in a host of flavours: companies have suggested using transponders worn on the wrist, magnetic tags and electromagnetic locks to make sure only owners can fire their weapons. But the leading proposal now is one that Smith & Wesson, a venerable company that sells a quarter of all U.S. handguns, agreed to develop as part of its deal with the White House. It promises to market a handgun within three years that would include a device, developed by Toronto's Mynic, that is able



Walsh in Montreal: a pioneering system that allows investigators to link spent bullets and casing left at a crime scene to the gun from which they were fired

to read the owner's fingerprint and unlock the gun. Smith & Wesson also agreed to sell all its guns equipped with locks, and to impose safety conditions on dealers that sell its products. In return, half of the 29 U.S. cities and counties that are suing the gun industry for allegedly failing to keep their products out of the hands of criminals agreed to drop the controversy from their court actions.

The idea is unpopular with both sides of the debate. Smith & Wesson signed the deal to avoid the cost and distraction of lengthy lawsuits, but the NRA and other gun makers immediately denounced it for selling out to the Clinton administration. Some gun dealers even vowed to boycott the company's products. And many gun-control advocates see "smart guns" as a contradiction in terms, a way to convince people who now fear firearms that they can allow a supposedly safe weapon into their homes. "All the technology in the world can't address the inherent danger of handguns," says Kristin Rand of the Violence Policy Center in Washington. But for now, technology offers ways for Americans to cut through their frozen debate over deadly weapons. ■

A weapon with a brain

Smith & Wesson's prototype



Financiers, a branch of the treasury department, but the much larger Federal Bureau of Investigation, an arm of the justice department, adopted another, incompatible system called Drugline. The two agencies, long-standing rivals in many areas, engaged in a bitter squabble over which system would prevail (both, in fact, ran programs under which municipal law-enforcement agencies could procure their firearms). The fact that IBIS was produced in Montreal did not help, FBI agents were known to grumble about why Washington should follow "this Canadian option."

Still, police forces across the United States and around the world began using IBIS to solve crimes that had eluded them. Several cities in South Africa, plagued by gun crime in the 1990s, bought the system, as did forces as far afield as Russia, Venezuela and Hong Kong. In New Orleans, where violence once soared during a drug epidemic in the mid-1990s, Sgt. Michael Rice, who oversees the police force's ballistics section, says the system was used last year to link 19 defendants to 26 shootings cases. IBIS proved as worth, he says,

The Canadian solution

The debate over Ottawa's new gun registry is all about who is being turned down and how many are being signed up. The registry's strongest selling point is the number of applicants it is rejecting: more than 1,500 since it was launched on Dec. 1, 1998, about 14 times the refusal rate under the old, less stringent system. Advocates of the registry say that means fewer abusive husbands, police suspects and other potentially dangerous would-be owners are getting guns—at least not legally. But the registry's biggest problem is the sluggish pace of its more routine business: only about 500,000 registrations were approved

up to the end of March, out of at least two million—some estimate up to five million—Canadian gun owners. Given the record for the registry's first 16 months, critics argue the system will never succeed in registering the remaining huge population of gun owners by the legal deadline of Dec. 31, 2000.

The Canadian Firearms Centre, which runs the registry, is studying ways to cope with a massive surge of applications late this year. "It's like filing your income tax return," said one official. "We expect a lot of people to wait until the last minute." Another reason they believe gun owners are, so far, signing up slowly is that the Supreme Court of Canada has yet to rule on whether the registry is legal. Six provinces, led by Alberta and backed by a boy of pro-gun lobby groups, challenged the registry as an

encroachment on provincial control over property and civil rights. Ottawa argued it has the authority to create the registry as a crime-prevention measure.

The judges gave the provinces' lawyers a tough grilling when the case was heard in February 2000, their decision may not be delivered until late summer, and some gun owners may be waiting until then to see if they have to register. But for some, even a Supreme Court ruling in Ottawa's favour may not end the debate: one group, calling itself the Law-Abiding Unregistered Firearms Association, claims to have more than 16,000 members ready to go to jail before they will obey the law.

John Gaddes in Ottawa

www.smith-wesson.ca
to info



Bevan (center) at an election rally, conversing to people such as voters

Nord Bivins in personal popularity. Struggling to differentiate themselves from the ruling party, the Liberals have vowed to overhaul the early education system. "The Bevan government focuses on creating buildings," says Cusack. "We will give education the resources to teach." They also promise to assist the national child benefit; in present, Islanders who receive money under the federal program are their provincial social assistance cheques cut by an equal amount. The New Democrats, with little money and just one seat, depend on campaign stunts to make the television news.

The low-key rise suits the Tories, who have the biggest war chest and the most experienced candidates. Basking in the glow of an expanding economy with strong retail and tourism sectors, they want the campaign to be a referendum on their 3½ years in power. They even dream of heading throughout the western end of the island—traditional Liberal territory where they were shut out in 1996.

The Tories, though, are not complacent. Having held just one seat before they trounced the Liberals four years ago, they know how easily a seismic shift can occur. Party strategists also understand one of the guiding principles of island politics: with 130,500 residents and a close-knit society, Prince Edward Island remains one of the few provinces where campaigns are still won on doorsteps and wharfs and in meeting halls, rather than with slick ad campaigns and state-of-the-art polling. "Politics is personal here," says Bevan, who dodged a punch while campaigning door-to-door back in 1978. "It's a small province and to succeed you have to connect on a face-to-face level."

The premier's arduous voyage adorns every Tory poster. The Saskatchewan-born businessman has made an ideal platform for the party's ethnic platform, with an aim of tax breaks for low-income Islanders, loans to their fishermen and spread jobs across the province, and new spending to lure money and RCMP officers. Although he has been party leader for only four years, Bevan has been elected to the legislature four times and served as the member of Parliament for Charlottetown from 1986 to 1988. He also seems to have the stamina and common sense awarded to handle for votes in every village, hamlet and isolated farm.

Last week, while Macdonald accompanied him on a typical campaign day, he went door-to-door with a Tory candidate in the western end of the island, called his party's health care plan at the regional hospital, dropped into two machine shops and a pair of general stores, visited a fishermen's wharf and a senior citizens' home, and met with a group of women. He finished the night with an appearance at a fishing social as he headed to his home near Murray River, on the eastern side of the island, where he lives with his wife, Carol, and the last of their four children still at home. "I'd come to know—that's all you can ask of a politician," said Peter Kean, chief executive of Royal Sea Foods Ltd., a fish-processing

company in Tignish, after Bevan had spent a half-hour listening to fishermen talk about lobster prices and the need for funds to spruce up their harbours.

Even among these friendly audiences, the big campaign issues repeatedly surfaced. Nobody came right out and asked for a job—even though patronage is the island way (during their last term the Tories had to pay \$5.6 million to 752 Liberal supporters who claimed they lost government jobs because of their political affiliation). But issues wanted further assurances the government will shore up a health-care system suffering from cuts in federal transfers. And there was grumbling that the \$2.2 million the government has pledged to help the island's potato industry—hard hit by virus in recent years—is not enough. "We'll look into that," Bevan assured the voters over and over. Then he was on to the next stop, in his own relaxed way running hard towards election day. ■

A tempest over an art gallery

Hanging in Charlottetown's Confederation Centre, the reproduction of Robert Harris' famous portrait of the Fishes of Confederation looks like the original—except for the words "NO GRAFF NO FREEDOM NO FATHERS" scrawled across the bottom. Before Feb. 21, Terry Graff was simply director and curator at the centre's newly re-emergent art gallery and museum. Now, he just may be the most famous person on the island—thanks to a decision



The defaced painting: artists agree

not to renew his contract. Wayne Husbly, chairman of the board of directors, will only say that Graff failed "a true commitment to a team effort." But Graff, 45, a native of Cambridge, Ont., maintains that Husbly and Garry Barlow, the centre's executive director, simply used a trumped-up accusation—siphoning funds for an exhibition without the approval of the director of marketing and development, who also happens to be Husbly's sister. The end reason for letting him go, he says, is that many of the shows during his four-year tenure were controversial. "They want to maintain the status quo," maintains Graff. "Ave of Caesar Gable and commercial shows are all that matters to them."

The Confederation Centre and Island museums have been flooded with letters protesting Graff's dismissal. Local artists have pulled their works from the gallery. So has Robert Teitel, Charlottetown's Anglican canon and a descendant of Robert Harris, who had loaned works by the famed artist. John MacCallum, who reproduced Harris' Confederation portrait for the gallery—and who has never denied media speculation that he himself defaced the work—eventually decided to burn the painting unless Graff got his job back. Like others, he worries Premier Pat Bevan is at risk on the controversy. But Bevan has tried to avoid taking sides in public—seemingly one of the few Islanders to exercise such restraint.

J.D. in Charlottetown

Canada

Old-style Politics

Elections in Prince Edward Island are still fought door-to-door

By John DeMont

There is laid-back—and then there is Pat Bevan, the only older premier of Prince Edward Island. Last week, midway through the province's election campaign, Bevan was cruising along back roads past soddish Island farmland. His driver, a lobster fisherman from the eastern end of the island, was lost. They were 90 minutes behind schedule. Every so often, a pothole threatened to renege the front end of the vehicle, which was pursued by Tory blue and decorated with a white "Let's continue" sign. But the 51-year-old premier—apparently oblivious to the radio blaring in the background and the television with the same-filled screen on his lap—somehow managed to look back as he simultaneously spoke into his cellphone and ended to prepare his next campaign stop on a map. "Looks like we'll miss supper," he drawled to an advance man. "Good thing we had a late lunch."

Politics does not get any more grassroots than in Canada's smallest province, where a majority of 2,108 voters was enough to sweep the Conservatives into power in 1996. Islanders, who traditionally have the highest voter turnout rate in the land for provincial elections (85.4 per cent in 1996), take their politics seriously. Many families will vote along the same party lines at their fishermen's dock, government largesse creates most of the jobs, and a deeply entrenched system of political patronage lives on. "It's old-style politics here," says Peter Bultes, a political studies professor at Charlottetown's University of Prince Edward Island. "But that may be the most oft-cited election in the country."

Bevan and his Tories, who held 18 of the legislature's 27 seats when they called the election on March 21, are campaigning for the April 17 vote with a 75 per cent approval rating in recent polls. The Liberals, who had eight seats, are led by Wayne Cusack, an ex-car dealer who lags 30 points be-

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New rules for refugees

Immigration Minister Elanor Caplan introduced a revamped Immigration Act that would crack down on human smugglers and refugee claimants who are criminals. The tough new rules include life in prison or a \$1-million fine for people found smuggling illegal immigrants into the country. "Our priority is the safety and national security interests of Canada," Caplan said.

Bernardo's letter

Justice Patrick Gosselin said that private discussions between convicted offender Paul Bernardo and his former lawyer Ken Murray will not be protected by solicitor-client privilege and can be used in Murray's defence during his obstruction of justice trial. This led to release of a handwritten note Bernardo wrote to Murray from prison in 1993, telling the lawyer how to find videotapes hidden in Bernardo's home. Murray is on trial for suppressing the tapes, which show Bernardo and his former wife, Karla Homolka, sexually assaulting southern Ontario teenagers Kaitan French and Lolita Mahabey.

A former minister lashes out

Former health minister Diane Marleau blasted her own government for not doing enough to defend health care. Marleau, who held the position from 1993 to 1996 before being demoted to Public Works, said she is "frustrated" by the rise of for-profit medicine, especially in Alberta and Ontario, and singled out her successor, Allan Rock, for failing to stand up to those provinces.

Fewer changes for Ludwig

In Edmonton, Crown prosecutor George Cormie wrapped up his closing arguments in the obscene vandalism trial of Wiebo Ludwig and Richard Boonstra by dropping five of the remaining 18 charges against them. Another 10 charges had been dropped during the course of the trial. Cormie also conceded that while taped conversations entered as evidence didn't actually reveal Ludwig and Boonstra admitting to being an all-wells, they did imply such a plot. Justice Sterling Sanderson of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench said he will rule on April 19

A tough ride for the Alliance party

For a party trying to establish a favourable profile in Ontario, it proved to be a rough ride. Last week, Frank Kleis, a junior member of Premier Mike Harris's cabinet and an aspiring leadership candidate for the fledgling Canadian Alliance party, and he was withdrawing from the race. But Kleis stated reason for his decision sent shock waves through the Alliance, formerly the Reform party. In March, party members decided in a March referendum to change the name to an attempt to keep a conservative coalition. Kleis said that a donor, whom he declined to name, had asked him to do so. He threw his support behind another candidate — an attempt for a hefty campaign donation.

Indignant party members who support either of the two front-runners, former Reform leader Preston Manning and former Alberta treasurer

Stewart, demanded that Kleis reveal the identity of the anonymous donor. Kleis observed, meanwhile, said the incident showed that while the largely western-based Alliance may want Ontario votes, it has no intention of letting Ontario figures in its key decision-making process.



Kleis left, Harris, Alliance

In the middle of the upset, another candidate, B.C. MP Kish Martin, announced he was dropping his bid into the leadership race. Martin, a physician of Irish, Portuguese and East Indian descent, has a reputation as a moderate — especially compared with Day, whose social conservatism has already earned controversy. Then, at week's end, Kleis said he was reconsidering his decision to pull out because of an outpouring of support for him from across the country.

A horrific death in Toronto

A mother of three died after being struck by a car and dragged nearly a kilometre near her Toronto home. Beth Kladis, 42, was taking her regular evening walk when she was run down while crossing at a traffic light. Her body became wedged under the car and wasn't dislodged until the driver turned into a driveway. Pilar Hicks, 34, has been charged with failing to stop after an accident causing death and careless driving. The accident has renewed debate about mandatory road tests for elderly drivers, which were eliminated in Ontario in 1996.

Back to sovereignty

Visiting France, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard served notice that he will revive the debate over sovereignty for the province, and has abandoned his strategy of waiting for "winning conditions" before holding a referendum on the issue. In his strongest statement since winning re-election in 1998, he said Quebec's economic progress means the focus can shift to

winning a vote on sovereignty, which he said should take a form modified on the European Union.

During a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, Bouchard also criticized Ottawa's so-called clarity bill, which sets out rules for a referendum, calling the law "null and void." Chirac, however, did not go beyond France's long-held position that the country would support Quebec if it gained independence.

A space dream sours

After a lengthy confinement with Russian space officials, would-be Canadian astronaut Judith Lapierre returned to Quebec last week. Lapierre was one of eight researchers who climbed into a mockup of the Russian Mir space station on Dec. 3 in Moscow as part of an experiment to determine how humans would react to being confined to cramped quarters. During the 10 days, she witnessed fights and was socially harassed when a Russian cosmonaut forcefully kissed her. Lapierre, who took part in the experiment under the auspices of the Canadian Space Agency, is still angry. Russian officials have not acknowledged that anything serious happened. She now hopes to go on to Japan to do space-related research—but she no longer believes she will ever journey into



Lapierre's isolation and harassment

space. "By going public," Lapierre told *Adweek* last week, "I've lost whatever chance I had of becoming an astronaut."

At times during the 110-day-long experiment, Lapierre said, she *feared* she was about to be attacked. At one point, a colleague even hit the knives in the

station's kitchen because of fear that two Russian cosmonauts who had bloodied each other in a New Year's Eve fistfight were about to attack each other. And only minutes after the brawl, another Russian dragged Lapierre, 32, into a hallway and roughly shoved his tongue deep into her mouth.

At first, the Russians in charge of the project at Moscow's Institute of Biomedical Problems denied and ignored Lapierre's complaint. Then, project co-director Valera Gushin ambushed her allegations to cultural differences. Russians, he said, do not distinguish between looking on the lips and kissing on the cheeks when celebrating. The Russians also said they were reluctant to intervene, in part because they wanted to study human reaction to isolation, including, apparently, sexual harassment, hawking and drinking. Ironically, they accused Lapierre of being a publicity seeker—an accusation that anger her. "I came here to work," she counters, "not to fight men."

Maklain Gray in Moscow

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Conviction in Pakistan

Former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif, ousted in a military coup, was convicted of hijacking a commercial aircraft, sentenced to life in prison and ordered to forfeit all his personal belongings. The twice-elected, twice-deposed 52-year-old businessman prevented an aircraft carrying 138 passengers from landing on Oct. 12 after he had been deposed.

Suspending Russia

The Russian delegation to the Council of Europe staged a dramatic walkout after being stripped of its voting rights for alleged gross abuses by Russian troops in Chechnya. The council called for an immediate ceasefire in the region and appealed for member states to isolate Moscow to the European human rights court. Russia, which joined the 41-nation council in 1996, is the only country to be suspended in the organization's 51-year history.

Bounty on a terrorist

The U.S. state department is offering up to \$5 million (U.S.) for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Algerian-born Abdelmajid Dohamane. The 35-year-old was indicted in January in a Washington state federal court on terrorism charges. Dohamane, who came to Canada in 1995 seeking refugee status but had his request rejected, disappeared from Montreal in December and is alleged to be an accomplice of Ahmed Ressam, another Algerian-born former Montreal resident, who was caught allegedly entering the United States with explosives in December.

Land wars in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's parliament voted to make the country's former colonial mines, Britain, liable for compensating white owners of farms to be used for redistribution to blacks. The constitutional amendment was voted into law with the maximum 100 votes barely 24 hours after the 76-year-old president, Robert Mugabe, threatened to go to war with Britain over his re-election plan. Whites, who constitute two per cent of the country's 12.5 million people, own 70 per cent of the best farmland. Britain rejected the plan.

World Notes

The battle over a Cuban boy

Elián González's father arrived in Washington from Cuba to claim his six-year-old son, rescued off the Florida coast on Nov. 23 after his mother drowned during a shipwreck while trying to escape to the United States. Juan Miguel González, accompanied by his now wife and six-month-old baby, blamed the Miami relatives who have been caring for the boy because, he said, Elián has been put "on display in public places, with the intention of gaining political advantage." And González said he hopes "very soon to embrace my son."

Earlier said than done, González did meet with U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, who recently was a federal district court ruling that Elián be returned to his father. But talks

between the two sides continued to surround the González house in Miami's Little Havana. At week's end, authorities said they hoped for a resolution by the middle of this week.



Prison in Miami: Elián with U.S. flag (left) partner

aimed at bringing about a peaceful handover broke off with Elián's great uncle, Lázaro González, who has had temporary custody of him—while the U.S. Coast Guard

Hard landing for frisky flyers

Two former British executives who were strangers but shed clothing and fuelled each other during a flight from Dallas to Manchester, England, last October were fined for being drunk on an airplane. Amanda Holt, 37, a North Newsweek manager, and David Mishin, 40, a Hallmark Card executive, drank excessively before smuggling under a blanket and proceeding to grope each other. British Judge Harold Singer agreed to drop a charge of causing public decency, noting that the two, both married, had lost their jobs and had suffered enough.

Japan's new leader

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party picked Yoshiro Mori as prime minister after an April 2 shake left former leader Keizo Obuchi in a coma. Mori, a one-time rugby player denuded by his illness as "an elephant with a fish bone" because of his 226-lb. frame and reputation for indecisiveness, pledged to carry on with Obuchi's policies of revitalization for

Japan. The world's second-largest economy has been wracked by recession for a decade. The leadership crisis again focused attention on the secrecy and backroom dealings of the LDP, which imposed a 22-hour blackout on news of Obuchi's medical condition. Opposition politicians, anticipating electoral defeats as early as June, said the choice of Mori as prime minister showed that the LDP has reached a "dead end."



Watching prices in Toronto
many investors will proceed
much more cautiously

who made using borrowed money are asked to put more of their own cash into their trading accounts to make up for sagging stock values. And many investors reported that, at least for now, they were poorer as a result of last week's meltdown. Philip Alderman, a 34-year-old retail physician who lives in West Vancouver, keeps a daily watch on his seven-figure portfolio using the Internet. With mounting concern, he saw his stake in BCE Inc. drop from about \$200 to around \$165 in a week. But having acquired his shares in 1996 at only \$53, Alderman notes that the drop "did not mean a catastrophe."

To most analysts, it was a correction that had to happen. Market watchers had long warned that many stock-related stocks were already overpriced—yet the public's appetite for

rationally using "old economy" assets like finance, resources and telecommunications, the flight from tech, however temporary, was good news. Dominic D'Alessandro, president and CEO of Manulife Financial, has been following the *volatiles* especially closely since his company went public about six months ago. At times, he says, the ups and downs have been nerve-racking. But Manulife's stock picked up speed last week, as many investors sought the safe harbor of well-known financial institutions. "There is a general awareness that some valuations bear no relationship to reality," D'Alessandro said. "You can get a company where, even if it achieves 50 per cent annual growth over the next 20 years, it still won't make enough money to support the price being assigned to it today."

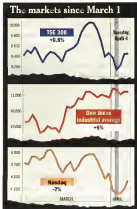
Candidate Pacific Ltd. also benefited dramatically from the reverse flow into blue chips, as share prices rose by 20 per cent in just over a week. "Before, we felt very undervalued," said CEO David O'Brien. "Now, we feel slightly less undervalued." O'Brien, however, rejects the "old economy" label. "It's not an economy," he says, noting that companies around the world are reinventing themselves with major investments in e-commerce and new technology.

In fact, most experts who take the long view are remarkably upbeat about the outlook for the next decade. Even though the Nasdaq fell sharply last week, O'Brien Brown's Leish notes, it remains about eight per cent higher than it was at the beginning of the year. In 1999, it moved up by a remarkable 86 per cent, and in 1998 it rose by 60 per cent. So agents that basked last week's rise were really just a dip, he says. And grazing markets could become far more common, adds Scotiabank's Dickson. With investors watching their stocks daily on the Internet, jumping in when they see a strong trend, markets are likely to be far more volatile than in the past.

Others analysts are downright blind about last week's heart-stopping plunges. "Big deal," says Jeff Rubin, chief economist for CIBC World Markets. "The Nasdaq has taken a lot of a hit, but what the Nasdaq is fundamentally about is the notion that the business cycle is dead. It's about the notion that North America is in a golden age of growth and that we are only in year 10 of a 20-year expansion. Therefore, I don't buy based on someone's earnings. I buy based on the next five to 10-year earnings."

Jack Lawrence holds similar views. The chairman of Lawrence & Company Inc., a Toronto investment management firm for the wealthy, and former deputy chairman of trading giant BMO Naidin Burns, says last week's volatility was "very, very healthy." The world is going through a technology revolution, he says, and it is going to take a lot to sort out the winners from the losers. The key to success is to choose stocks carefully—and diversify. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket," advises Lawrence. "Stick with a long-term focus and you will be able to participate in the phenomenal growth that is going to take place over the next five to 10 years." And be ready, inevitably, for more sudden shocks.

With John Nicol, Brian Woodward and
Mary Joerges in Toronto



them only intensified. It took the fall of a seemingly terrible high-tech giant to set off last week's scorching volatility. A U.S. federal judge found Microsoft Corp. guilty of violating antitrust laws (page 32). For market veterans, Microsoft was simply a trigger for an event that was overdue. "It was the last straw on the camel's back," observed John Roth, president and CEO of Brampton, Ont.-based Norel Networks Corp. "There were a lot of things people were nervous about. This was just an excuse."

Roth, whose own company's stock fell 20 per cent in 10 days, remained confident that the high-tech sector would continue to perform well. But for executives of firms in tradi-

OK, Tuesday was bad. Really bad. But in a remarkable turnaround that some experts say could be a mark of stock markets for the next five to 10 years, the beleaguered TSE 300 composite index bounced back strongly the same day, closing down only 232.89 points in 2:48 per cent. Other international exchanges repeated the pattern. The Nasdaq stock market, the technology-heavy New York exchange that has been at the forefront of the dot-com craze, closed down almost 350 points on Monday, then went into a 634-point free fall on Tuesday before soaring back up again, closing a mere 75 points down. Over the rest of the week, both exchanges kept the rally going, and investors looked set to continue North America's unprecedented love affair with equities.

There were signs, however, that many will proceed much more cautiously, especially when it comes to buying stocks that are little more than an idea and a fancy Web site. "The era of the concept stock is gone," said Murray Luth, director of research for Vancouver investment dealer O'Brien Brown Ltd. "Burlington companies with earnings and management prospects will find their level and continue to do well."

The rebound does not mean, of course, that investors escaped unscathed. It is confirmed that Tuesday's slide resulted in hundreds of so-called margin calls: some investors

By Patricia Chisholm

The adrenaline-laced, deal-making traders who work on the trading floor at Scotia Macdonald Brokerage Inc., one of the biggest in the country, usually make quite a din. But around midday on Tuesday last week, the cavernous room in the heart of Toronto's financial district went dead silent. No one spoke as the country's richest stock market soared the bottom of its biggest-ever mid-day free fall—718 points, or 7.7 per cent. All anyone seemed able to do was stare at the unbelievable numbers coming up on their computers. "It was amazing," recalls Bruce Dickson, senior vice-president and a 25-year trading veteran. "I had forgotten there was space for so much red on a screen." The entire floor, less only moments. Benkers, who a few minutes earlier had virtually no orders, were suddenly deluged with clients clamouring to both buy and sell stocks at greatly reduced prices.

A Giant Under Threat

As he awaits Microsoft's anti-trust punishment, Bill Gates plays for time

By Ross Lerer

You can tell a lot about Bill Gates' state of mind from the way he dresses. Much of the time, the chairman of Microsoft Corp. looks as though he's just rolled out of bed—his clothes are casual and rumpled, his hair is uncombed and his shoulders are speckled with dust/fur. But when Gates, 44, appeared at a news conference in Redmond, Wash., last week to respond to the latest in a series of legal blows against his company, his appearance was somber and serious, more East Coast corporate lawyer than West Coast computer geek. Wearing a dark blue suit and a tailored shirt, the world's richest man tried to reassure investors and Microsoft employees that his software empire remains strong and secure, despite a ruling that it has repeatedly violated U.S. antitrust laws. Declared Gates: "We believe we have a strong case on appeal."

Gates' uncharacteristic attention to appearances underscored a central fact in the antitrust case: having dragged on for most of the past decade, the case against Microsoft is now as much about image as it is about technology and the legal definition of an abusive monopoly. The battle between Microsoft and Netscape Communications Corp. in the market for Internet browser software, the main issue in the

trial, is for all intents and purposes over—Netscape having been soundly routed (and then swallowed by another Microsoft rival, Internet giant American Online Inc.). As for the issue of monopoly, no one seriously doubts that Gates has used his control over the Windows operating system, which runs 90 per cent of the world's desktop computers, to extend Microsoft's reach into other emerging product categories. The debate really focuses on whether those tactics have, on balance, hurt consumers. The U.S. justice department says they have; many Microsoft customers, and even some of Gates' rivals, would beg to differ.

But what matters in the court of public opinion is perception, not fact, and in that sense Microsoft is paying a heavy price. From the moment U.S. federal authorities began to investigate the software giant in 1991, the company has behaved as though it was beyond the reach of politicians and regulators, implying that people in government could not possibly understand the inner workings of the high-tech industry. During the 76-day trial in Washington, which wound up last June, Microsoft executives often came across as shockingly unprepared—displaying, if not contempt, haughty disregard for the judicial system. Gates himself did enormous damage to the company's case during a video-

aped deposition in which he appeared arrogant and evasive, claiming not to recall key meetings and e-mail exchanges in which he or his subordinates outlined plans to crush their competitors. Even Microsoft's staunchest supporters shook their heads at this one. How could the world's richest company, with hundreds of PR advisors and spin doctors at its beck and call, have put on such a clumsy performance at such a pivotal time?

Ironically, if anyone is winning the PR war it is Thomas Brinkfield Jackson, the 63-year-old federal district court judge who has become Microsoft's worst nightmare. Before the trial even began, Jackson swore that he wouldn't let United States vs. Microsoft degenerate into a Vietnam-like morass, as happened in an earlier antitrust trial against IBM. That case raged on for 13 years, by which point most Americans could not have cared less about the outcome. (Ronald Reagan ordered the case abandoned in 1962 after he assumed the presidency.) To prevent something similar from happening to Microsoft, Jackson ruled the two antagonists out court—the trial began only five months after federal and state regulators filed suit against the company—then limited each side to 12 witnesses and forced lawyers to submit much of the testimony in writing. Compared with other antitrust hearings, the trial unfolded at lightning speed.

Since then, however, the proceedings have slowed to a crawl. In what might be described as the legal equivalent of the Chinese water torture, Jackson opted to split his judgments into three parts. In November, he issued his findings of fact in the case, ruling that Microsoft has monopoly power and used that power to stifle competition. Last week, he made public his conclusions of law, stating that the company's actions violated antitrust statutes. The next step will be to decide on an appropriate penalty; the options include a court-ordered breakup of the company or a requirement that it make public the Windows source code so that rivals could offer their own versions of the popular operating system. A hearing to consider possible sanctions is set to begin on May 24.

By stretching his decision out over many months, Jackson has subjected Microsoft to inaccurate waves of unfavorable media coverage and public scrutiny. The strategy was purely intended to put pressure on the company for its out-of-court settlement, but so far Microsoft has resisted. In late March, the company put forward a detailed proposal in which it offered to amend some of its business practices, but the document didn't come close to meeting the prosecution's demands. Government officials complained privately it was full of loopholes and escape clauses that case double on Microsoft's incoherence.

Last week, Gates insisted that he remains open to a negotiated settlement. But if that was the goal, it would have made more sense to reach an agreement before Jackson handed down his legal conclusions—which can now be used as

weapon using number of separate class-action cases and private lawsuits that might be brought against the company. It seems more likely that Microsoft decided long ago to tough out the negative publicity and the months of legal proceedings in hopes of getting a more sympathetic hearing from a higher court. "Until this appeal is over," said a defense team attorney, Microsoft's chief executive officer, "nothing is settled."

The truth is that Microsoft has everything to gain by waiting, and refusing to settle out of court. The U.S. Court of Appeals, in a 1996 ruling that overturned an earlier decision by Jackson against Microsoft, has already shown itself skeptical of government antitrust enforcement. Microsoft's chances will also improve if Republican candidate George W. Bush wins next fall's presidential election. The Texas governor declined to comment on last week's ruling, but a spokesman drew attention to Bush's past remarks favoring "innovation over litigation." Given that approach, Gates no doubt feels it would be foolish to fold his cards now. Better to wait, hope for the best and, in the meantime,

continue to do business the Microsoft way. Other than securing a new suit and then, compromise just isn't Gates' style. ■

A company built on the desktop

Ever since Microsoft's billing up its Internet-related businesses, most of its sales will come from the traditional sources it dominates: operating systems and retail software.

Revenues (1999)

In millions of U.S. dollars



Market share (February 2000)



Microsoft's stock price



Source: Microsoft Corp. for this

Behind the Cable Battle

The struggle for Quebec's Vidéotron stirs debate over nationalism and 'Toronto buying Montreal'

By Bruce Wallace in Montreal

Robert L'Herbier is one of the few diners in Montreal's fabled Brasserie Club that evening, but he still ambles among the tables, seeking out gossip and dispensing opinions, just like he did in the old days. From the late 1960s through the early 1980s, L'Herbier could regularly be found lunching in the Brasserie Club's exclusive back-room. From his table, the revered—and sometimes feared—head of television programming at Quebec's TVA network cut the deals that helped fashion the province's small-screen culture. TVA was Quebec's first commercial network, fighting for viewers back then against the more powerful Radio-Canada, just as CTV once did against the CBC in English Canada. And much of TVA's ascendancy from the second channel to the mainstream powerhouse it became owed to L'Herbier's keen sense of the popular mood, his instinct for what Quebecers wanted to watch on the box.

On this night, the now-retired L'Herbier is fuming about a business deal that is rattling not just broadcasters and newscasters in Quebec, but searing into live-in rooms as well: the prospective sale for stock, valued last week at \$5.7 billion, of the Montreal-based cable company Groupe Vidéotron Ltd., to Rogers Communications Inc. of Toronto (which also owns Montreal's Relationships between Canadians and their cable companies can be touchy affairs, and L'Herbier's antennae are well-tuned; this deal has deep problems with the Quebec public. "Vidéotron should stay in Quebec," he says firmly, an attitude apparently shared by the powerful *Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec*, the province's—and Canada's—biggest pension-fund manager, which holds a 10-per-cent minority voting stake in Vidéotron. Claiming it has a legal right to veto any deal, the Caisse has broken ranks with the Chagnon family, which built Vidéotron into Quebec's largest cable operator and holds 71 per cent of its shares. Instead, the Caisse is trying to engineer a competing bid in conjunction with Montreal-based printing and publishing giant Quebecor Inc., a package of cash and shares they claim to be worth \$5.9 billion. The result is as good as derring do as anything L'Herbier ever put on the air: a feud at the highest levels of Quebec's business class featuring allegations of betrayal, a whirl of political intrigue and enormous financial stakes, all headed for a courtroom showdown on April 18.

Quebecor Inc.

President and CEO: **Pierre-Henri Peladeau**
Headquarters: Montreal
1999 revenue: **\$56.8 billion**
Businesses: English and French newspapers, broadcasting, printing, forest products

Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

Chairman and CEO: **Jean-Claude Sirois**
Headquarters: Montreal
1999 net assets: **\$81 billion**
Operations: manages pension funds for Quebec civil servants and others

This, however, is *real* TV, with real-life implications for Quebecers—race to auction the story archives of cable mogul Ted Rogers, who is trying to put together a cable network that can compete for Internet supremacy against telephone behemoth BCE Inc. The fight for Vidéotron has become a broader test of whether there is any life left in the once-admired, now-unfashionable model of mass capitalism in Quebec that built a stable of homegrown firms in the 1980s and early '90s known as "Quebec Inc." The Caisse has thrown its considerable weight into building local corporate champions, firms that became sources of pride to Quebecers almost the way the Montreal Canadiens did during their glory years. They spring from the Caisse's dual mandate for locating what has become Canada's biggest stock and bond portfolio, generate good returns to help Quebec pensioners grow old gracefully, while creating opportunities to promote the province's economic "dynamism."

But in recent years, as globalization's tsunami washed over advanced economies everywhere, the Caisse seemed reluctant to fight the tide. It won government permission to ramp up the portion of its holdings outside Quebec, and dropped its overt Quebec chauvinism to talk more about returns on investment. In 1996, it permitted the sale of Prolog Inc., Quebec's largest grocery chain to Ontario's Loblaw Cos., which would have been unavailable in its more interventionist era. That sale seemed to mark a turning point for the Caisse, proof that reform, not politics, now ruled.

The Vidéotron deal has conjured up all the old nationalist ghosts. The

Caisse protests loudly that stripping Rogers is nothing more than an attempt to score for a better deal. But the legion of skeptics is large. It includes Bay Street money managers who willful political chessplayers and sold off Vidéotron stock (it's not often you get a competing offer for a takeover target and their stock goes down," notes one Toronto banker wryly). And it includes Montreal's business elite, who whisper—because most Montreal business people whisper when it comes to the Caisse—that the pension fund is up to its old political tricks. "There is always a prejudice against the Caisse based on the fact it's under government control," says Charles Sirois, one of Quebec's top businessmen whose *Télévision* Ltd. recently sold long distance carrier Telebec to BCE Inc., and has its own long-standing relationship with the fund. Sirois acknowledges it is natural for anyone dealing with the Caisse to ask if politics is behind its behaviour, though he

From left, Presidents Jean-Claude Sirois, André Chagnon; Rogers' long financial adviser

Groupe Vidéotron Ltée

Chairman: **André Chagnon**
Headquarters: Montreal
1999 revenue: **\$836 million**
Businesses: cable TV, broadcasting, telecommunications
Cable subscribers: **1.48 million**

Source: company reports

Rogers Communications Inc.

President and CEO: **Ted Rogers**
Headquarters: Toronto
1999 revenue: **\$3.1 billion**
Businesses: cable TV, video rental, wireless communications, publishing, radio
Cable subscribers: **2.2 million**



Parasitic? Is the identity of culture in the marketplace?

Caisse officials insist they are simply looking for a better deal, but the legion of skeptics is large

won't venture a guess about its motivation in the Vidéotron offer. "I don't have the answer to that," he says. "But it is a fair to ask the question."

Unfortunately for the Caisse, Jacques Paréau provided his own candid answer in the war heated up "Toronto tonight Montreal," was his wife's of the Rogers deal, which gives that Toronto's former premier and one of the founding fathers of the Caisse, did not pass unnoticed.

These views resonated in national circles, where suspicions remain about Rogers' intentions for Vidéotron. They were perhaps best reflected in a recent column by respected political analyst Michel Auger in the well-read *Journal de Montréal* (a Quebec paper). Auger accused Rogers of "systematically excluding French-language content every time it had the chance." He cited its decision to drop several French-language channels from basic cable service in eastern Ontario, where significant numbers of francophones live, and the Rogers application to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to keep the TVA network of basic cable outside Quebec (Rogers executives say they did so to avoid imposing channels on subscribers). Concluded Vidéotron is about twice as much where your cable bill comes from, wrote Auger. "It's about the future of the Internet in Quebec."

Of course, Quebec is not the only jurisdiction where free markets are sometimes at odds with the state. Even in the United States, the attempt by Canadian National to take over

Bellington Northern Santa Fe Corp.'s railroads is currently on hold while the American regulator examines issues such as the "potential harm to American interests" of a cross-border purchase. Nor is Canadian nationalism a spent force. When Quebec bought the *7* newspaper chain last year, Quebecers noted how prominent Toronto-based business columnist Diane Francis denounced the government to stop the sale on the basis of politics. "Separatism has absolutely no business having media properties," she wrote.

But for the most part, governments have recognized the futility of trying to stop up or protect companies from takeover by outsiders. "Near capitalism is dead, it's over," says international trade expert Alan Rogers, a Canadian who now teaches at Oxford University in England. Many observers argue the Internet industry is beyond control by its very nature. "The Caisse sees Vidéotron as a Quebec versus Canada thing, but the world is no longer a world of perpetual national boundaries," argues Richard Schultz, a telecom monetization expert at McGill University in Montreal. "Even the CBC has concluded it can't control content on the Internet."

But the Caisse's dilemma that it is playing politics ("we wish we could, but we can't do anything about Mr. Paréau," said one Caisse official) collide with an history of intervention. Many Caisse-watchers are in fact nervous legal gymnastics over Vidéotron as perfectly in keeping with its media agenda. Rogers executives were aware of the contentious shareholder agreement between the Chagnon family and the Caisse, which gives the fund certain powers over major changes to the company (the contract will determine whether that agreement continues a vote). But both the Chagnons and Rogers allege the Caisse had signalled tacit support for the deal, especially after the Chagnons agreed to drop the TVA network, which Vidéotron owns, out of the sale to Rogers and keep it in Quebec hands (The Quebecor had included TVA.) They also believe they had the Quebec government's blessing. After Premier Lucien Bouchard and Finance Minister Bernard Landry met with executives from both sides on Feb. 7, Landry expressed ambivalence with the Rogers bid.

The Rogers and Chagnon sides were therefore outraged by the Caisse's late-minute balk on the eve of the March 27 shareholders' meeting called to approve the deal. One Montreal lawyer close to the Vidéotron side alleges the Caisse's political masters got nervous about the prospect of losing another Quebec company. "They lost Paréau and

then had a near-miss when Bell bought Telelobe, because Telelobe could have gone to any company anywhere," he said. "It drives Landry's government crazy to see all these companies they managed being bought out."

The Quebec side again in offer has nothing to do with politics. Those who know him say Quebecor's chief executive, Pierre-Karl Peladeau, came out a while if the Caisse's deep pockets are lined with franc-de-la. He was growing in combining Vidéotron's cable network and TVA (which also controls the French-language Internet giant Netpage) with Quebecor's print publications and the Canadian Internet portal Caisse. Peladeau says he is bent on turning Quebecor into a media company, a Quebec version of AOL-Time Warner from which to leap into Europe. He says his reaction to the Rogers offer was joy that Vidéotron was in play. Despite the swirl of his fondness for home, he has weighed his usual pushing button to pull a deal together ever since.

The markets will be happier when he does. So far, the Quebecor plan for Vidéotron is long-term concept, short on particulars, and most analysts say they have no way of assessing its proper value. The Chagnons have already rejected it, as their legal agreements with Rogers require, although last week they said "other avenues" might also offer benefits. "If the Caisse can unlock the Rogers deal, then Quebecor will have to be more precise about its offer," says Skak. "Because at the end of the day, the Caisse will have to face the judgment of the market."

Only then, most agree, will it become clear whether the Caisse is sincere about seeking a better value for its Vidéotron shares, or if this is the political play in crisis drama. "I'll wait them out of one thing," says Marc Côté, a Montreal lawyer who was once Vidéotron's in-house counsel and who remains a shareholder and friend of the Chagnon family. "The biggest mistake the Caisse could make would be to make a deal that isn't clearly superior to Rogers' offer and rely on nationalist sentiment to do the rest for them. If they do that, they'll lose. Because it's a Quebec nationalist," he says, a smile crossing his face. "But my consolation starts at 6 o'clock on night over a bottle of wine. During business hours, I'll take the best offer."

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FUND POWER

Canada's public pension fund managers control vast pools of wealth awaiting payout to address The top two funds, by far, held by each of the four largest funds are Nortel Networks and BCE Inc. A snapshot of the big four, as of Dec. 31:

	1999 net assets	Rate of return	Major stock holdings (excluding Nortel and BCE)
Calixa de dépôt et placement du Québec	\$81 billion	16.5%	Power Financial Corp., \$949 million Dorco, \$560 million Telestream International Wireless, \$543 million
Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board	\$68.3 billion	17.4%	Codexis Pharm., \$562 million Toronto Dominion Bank, \$535 million Maple Leaf Foods, \$530 million
B.C. Investment Management Corp.	\$59.3 billion	13.4%	Toronto Dominion Bank, \$502 million Royal Bank of Canada, \$451 million Seagram, \$393 million
Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System	\$35 billion	15.2%	Royal Bank of Canada, \$295 million Toronto Dominion Bank, \$264 million Telus Corp., \$244 million

Source: Investment Research Corporation

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Assembling the genome

Colin Gencies of Rockville, Md., says it has, for the first time anywhere, assembled the three billion chemical "letters" that make up the DNA of a human. Researchers blasted the fast to assembling the pieces of a puzzle without assembling it. The private company hopes to place the DNA fragments in their correct order to map the human genome within three to six weeks.

German disunity

Dresdner Bank AG backed out of its merger with Deutsche Bank AG in a dispute over how to integrate the two operations. Announced in March, the deal was billed as a merger of equals creating Europe's biggest bank, with \$1.8 trillion in assets. Dresdner objected to Deutsche's attempt to sell Dresdner's investment banking arm.

Digital deluge

Hopelful applicants inundated the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission with hundreds of requests for digital TV licences. The CRTC expects to hand out 10 licences by next winter. Programming requests ranged from children's animation to adult sex education. One million Canadian homes have digital TV set-top boxes.

Net gain for privacy

Online passed an Internet privacy law that forbids e-businesses from selling information to a third party without a consumer's explicit consent. Previously, Internet service providers could sell personal information, without a client's approval, to data collection agencies for marketing. The law takes effect for most on Jan. 1, 2001. Health-related firms have two years to comply.

Revved up

Canadian car and bus manufacturers had an explosive week. Toyota announced a \$500-million plan to build its Lexus RX300 luxury sport-utility in Cambridge, Ont., creating 300 jobs. And Winnipeg-based Motor Coach Industries International finalized a \$725-million contract to build up to 1,600 buses for New Jersey Transit, creating 300 jobs for almost four years.

Business Notes



CPI's O'Brien: lower taxes, please

Top CEOs clash with Ottawa

The chief executives of Canada's 150 biggest corporations issued a scathing indictment of Ottawa's tax policies and spending programs, blaming the government for hindering the country's competitiveness in the global marketplace and causing a slide in the standard of living. In a statement by the Business Council on National Issues, signed by chairman David O'Brien, boss of Canadian Pacific, and such powerful members as BCE's Jean-Marie Allard, Alcan's Jacques Boag and John Cleghorn of the Royal Bank, the CEOs demanded substantial cuts to corporate taxes and rates on higher income-earners. Ottawa officials bristled at the charges, but Thomas d'Aquino, the business council's president, had little sympathy.

"If people in Ottawa don't like it," d'Aquino said, "tough."

Finance Minister Paul Martin responded by pointing to the government's plans to slash taxes over five years and put more funds into research and development. Martin argued that business leaders spend too little on R & D, have not fully taken advantage of the Internet, and have sacrificed their own management techniques for developing the new economy.

Merger mania in the oilpatch

Hunt Oil Co. of Dallas ignited consolidation fever in the Alberta oilpatch with its \$775-million offer to buy Uthman Petroleum Ltd., a Calgary-based oil and gas producer. Uthman's stock surged, but the company said it plans to court other bidders because Hunt's bid is too low. The next day, Petrobank Energy and Resources Ltd. offered \$1.6-billion in a hostile takeover bid for Ranger Oil Ltd., whose market value is 10 times Petrobank's. Analysts, however, predicted a bidding war for Ranger. The two firms are both based in Calgary.

Financial Outlook

The economy created another 30,000 jobs in March, with women aged 25 years and up accounting for 21,000 of the new positions. But with

more workers re-entering the labour force, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.8 per cent for the fourth consecutive month.

In recent years, employment opportunities have been growing for all ages, especially for those at the edges of the job market. According to Statistics Canada, employment of people aged 55 years or older increased by 20.6 per cent since January 1996, due to more job opportunities and to an aging population. For those between 15 and 24, the hiring growth rate has been slower—up 8.8 per cent since January 1996.





The battle for royalties

Rock musicians—even the middle-aged, patently ones who run up with increasing frequency on the concert circuit, achieving *arena* glories—like to pretend they are rebels. It's an essential part of rock 'n' roll mythology, along with faded leather jackets and flanged teenage angst.

But let anyone threaten the money machine that is pop music, and those same rock rebels are miraculously transformed into defenders of the Establishment. They may dress differently, but don't be fooled: the typical pop star is no less wedded to the status quo than a banker in a pinstriped suit.

The best illustration of this now is the escalating battle over Napster, a wildly popular computer program that lets users download entire libraries of pirated songs from the Internet.

In its own way, Napster is the product of teenage rebellion. Created by an 18-year-old college dropout (Shawn Fanning, late of Boston's Northeastern University), it is the perfect tool for dorm-room anarchists who feel like thumping their noses at big-time record labels. What music but don't want to pay for it? Simply visit the Napster Web site (www.napster.com) and download the free software. In seconds, you're connected to thousands of other users, each sharing dozens or hundreds of illegally copied songs. A couple of mouse clicks and you, too, can be a pirate. For \$300, you can even buy a device to manufacture your own CDs.

Of course, it isn't just record companies that stand to suffer financially because of the exploding popularity of Napster and similar music-exchange programs. Many professional musicians are furious. It turns out that the only thing greater than a rock star who can't get no satisfaction is a millionaire guitar-basher who fears he won't get no royalties.

"They see all their work being given away for free, and they're stunned and horrified," Ron Soto, who manages singer Trey Chapsman and Ziggy Marley, recently told the online music sales Rapperz Store. Combs, who goes by the stage name Puff Daddy, complained publicly that Napster "abuses" artists and that they deserve more respect. Soto Stupp, lead singer of the alternative rock band Creed, was more direct: "Napster is robbing me blind."

On the face of it, most people would probably agree with that assessment. Artists should be paid for their work, right? Any system that gives music lovers the ability to distribute copyrighted songs for free clearly poses a grave danger to the

music business as we know it, as well as to the livelihoods of professional performers. There's also the matter of the public interest. Without a guarantee of royalties, surely the pool of recording artists and songwriters will dry up. Talented and creative people will choose other lines of work, denying society the pleasure of their compositions.

That, at least, is what many musicians want us to believe. But there are two problems with this argument. First, the Internet is here to stay, and that means copyright laws, as currently written, are almost certain to become unenforceable, whatever the music record labels do or say. Second, the notion that musicians have a moral right to be compensated every time somebody squares a copy of their work is open to debate.

Let's certainly not forget that musicians expected prior to the 20th century. Perhaps the Internet is merely forcing a return to an earlier age, before the invention of recorded music made it possible for thousands of modestly talented artists to risk it huge incomes.

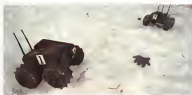
Today, we take for granted that an international pop star will live in the lap of luxury, touring occasionally and releasing a new recording perhaps once every two or three years. But that's not how successful musicians lived in the past. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, regarded by many as the greatest musical genius of all time, composed more than 600 works before his premature death at 35, but had trouble earning sufficient income to support a family. Some of his contemporaries, including Franz Joseph Haydn, were fortunate to have wealthy patrons, but, by and large, classical composers supported themselves by performing, giving music lessons and selling manuscripts for a one-time fee. Once sold, the work belonged to the publisher, composers never collected royalties, and hence were required to be prolific.

Were musicians any less creative then than now? Hardly. If anything, the modern music industry's pursuit of record sales and radio airplay encourages top performers to be less innovative, not more. The truly creative artists are often pushed to the margins, forced to scratch out a living in much the same way their predecessors did. (Mozart, let's not forget, was buried in a pauper's grave.)

Once Wile said to say that when bankers get together, they talk about art, but when artists get together, they talk about money. These days, I don't blame them. The rebels have arrived, but they're armed with computers, not guitars.



Puff Daddy in Dublin: *robust*



Finding avalanche victims faster

For scientists at Santa National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., the goal was software for a chemical and biological weapons detection system that along the way, they developed a program byproduct that can be used to find buried avalanche victims. *Avalanche robots are deployed to swam an area, searching for the signal from a radio beacon worn by the trapped person. Each robot relays information about the signal's strength to the other robots, which gradually close in on the location. Rescuers require handheld computers programmed with the search software, global-positioning receivers and basic radio equipment. Researchers at Sandia, operated by a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corp., say tests show the system is at least four times faster than any search technique currently in use. They are now looking at developing the product commercially.*

Gay beeper
In the 21st century, it seems, there is a gadget for everything—even for "gender." The *crème à la gay* mixer—meant being able to spot people of like sexual orientation in a crowd. For those who don't have it, there's Michael Boer's \$25 Gaydar key chain. The pocket-size, battery-operated device emits a radio signal so that a second Gaydar pinging within 15 m triggers both devices, which either beep or vibrate. If both are on the same Internet setting—

among five ranging from music to "action"—a purple heart flashes and the key chain plays a ditty. Once alerted, owners can look around for the other person. Gaydar will go on sale this summer in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, as well as in several U.S. cities. "It serves a purpose," says Boer, who lives with his wife in Dundas, Ont. "And it's fun."

Private e-mail

It's not hard for other people to read your e-mail if they know how. So Vancouver-based PrivacyK.com is giving away a free encrypted e-mail service. PrivacyK removes all identifying information from a message's "digital envelope" and encrypts text so it can't be read in transit. Co-creator Douglas Whetzel and Wil Bouchet plan to generate revenue by selling ads embedded in the message's opening dialogue box. Ordinary e-mail, warns Bouchet, "is like sending a postcard—everyone can read it."

Cool Sites

Fun to learn

Youngsters can surf www.kidspage.com, a health, science and tech site featuring entertaining, and educational, animations. They can learn about everything from electricity and genes to autism and air bags. Eye-popping good fun.

Daphne Hwangchiao

Required Reading

for planning a university education



The definitive guide to Canadian universities.

In addition to the university rankings from Maclean's, here's everything you need to know about the book included:

- Comprehensive, current profiles of 68 schools including specialty schools
- University colleges • Art colleges
- Agribusiness and military colleges

- Blue chip advice on:
 - Choosing a scholarship
 - Choosing a loan
 - Investing in an RESP

- Handy features:
 - Financial Planner
 - International Student Planner
 - Residence Report
 - Scholarship Directory

Maclean's
The Best of Canada

PLUS! Insider information from current students

IBM ROGERS MEDIA

Publishing Community

Accidents, mistakes, forgetfulness, impaired judgment—
Canadians pay a steep price for their restless nights

Are You Getting Enough Sleep?

By Jennifer Hempt in Vancouver

Jennifer and John Ogrodniczuk were at their wits' end. They tried everything to get their two-year-old daughter, Mikayla, to sleep. They devoured parenting books; played soothing New Age music in her room; even scanned the Internet to buy a video called *Sleep Tight*. Nothing worked. The Ogrodniczüks' friends had toddlers who slept through until dawn, but Mikayla would wake three or four times a night, howling for mom.

The couple's family doctor said there might not be much they could do. 10 per cent of babies have real difficulties learning to sleep. But over the optimism, the Ogrodniczüks bought Lullaby Mat, an aromatherapy spray to induce their daughter into dreamland. "You'll try anything," says Jennifer, "you're so desperate for sleep." Lullaby Mat didn't do the job.

Their experience with Mikayla has taught the Ogrodniczüks how precious sleep is. In that, they have plenty of company. In every age-group, legions of Canadians have trouble finding the right path to the "honey-dew dew of

slumber," as Shakespeare called it. Children with nightmares, drowsy teenagers, fretful middle-agers, the fatigued elderly: at each stage of life sleep can be elusive. The sleepless are desperate. Half of adult Torontonians would prefer a good night's shut-eye to an evening of great sex, according to one poll last year. And the problem appears to go beyond the stresses of modern life or the various medical conditions that induce insomnia. Anthropologists studying sleep say modern society has turned its back on traditional sleep conditions. These include natural temperature and

light conditions, infants sleeping with parents, and older children and the aged sleeping in groups (page 48).

Medical scientists are discovering, too, that biology plays a big role. Teenagers who stay in bed until noon are not being lazy—their brains are telling them to do it. Wild hormone fluctuations during menstruation, pregnancy and menopause can throw a whammy into women's sleep. Older people's rest becomes troubled by the disappearance of deep-sleep phases that occur at the end of the sleep cycle. These biological changes, combined with the daily anxieties of life, shift work, some medical conditions and genetic conditions

that hamper sleep, are creating a calamity of a century for Canadians: stumbling, lethargic daily through the day. Sleeplessness has become so chronic and disruptive that it is causing many people to make faulty, sometimes sudden, judgments, says Stanley Coren, a University of British Columbia psychologist and author of the best-seller *Sleep Thru*. "We are," says Coren, "a dangerously sleep-deprived society."

At least 70 million North Americans have sleep disruptions at some time in their lives, surveys by the Washington-based National Sleep Foundation show. Some famous catastrophes illustrate the potential dangers. The Three Mile



Rest in peace

Having trouble getting a good night's sleep? Here's what sleep researchers suggest:

- Have your evening meal at least three hours before bed.
- Try to go to bed and wake up at the same times each day. Even if you get to bed later some nights, make an effort to get up at your regular hour to make it easier to get to sleep the next night.
- Remove the TV and computer from the bedroom: the light they emit provides a visual cue to the brain that can impede sleepiness. Even reading can be a bad idea for people with sleep problems, since it requires light and can set the mind whirling. Save the bed for sex and sleep.
- Try to eliminate odors from your diet. Smoking and alcohol are also problematic. Drinking alcohol may interrupt sleep.
- Wear socks. Cold feet can make it difficult to sleep.
- Take a bath before bed. Body temperatures drop after a warm bath, a signal to the body that it is time to sleep.
- Exercise regularly—but not just before bedtime. Being physically active during the day can induce drowsiness at night.
- If you can't sleep, get up and do something. Go back to bed only when you feel tired, then get up at your regular hour.

Island nuclear accident in Pennsylvania in 1979 and the Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska in 1989, for instance, happened, in part, because people doze off for sleep while in charge. At least 100,000 car crashes in the United States, and thousands in Canada, occur each year because of dozing drivers at the wheel. "People," says renowned sleep specialist Dr. William Dement of Stanford University in California, "don't really understand how much sleep they need."

CRANKY IN THE CRIB

As the bleary-eyed Opeducacials can attest, parents lose an enormous amount of sleep during the first year of a newborn's life—up to 350 hours each, by Dement's calculation. The challenge has given birth to an industry of how-to books. One of the best known is *Solve Your Child's Sleep Problems* by Dr. Richard Ferber of the Children's Hospital in Boston, which has sold about one million copies. But Ferber's tough-love methods—basically, leaving a baby to cry alone for longer periods to snuff proper sleep habits—have come under attack. Anthropologist James McKenna, who teaches at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and runs a mother-baby behavioral sleep laboratory there, insists babies fare better in their parents' bed—a re-echo in Ferber's book. "Parents are told if they want their child to be independent and sleep through the night, they should give him a separate room," says McKenna. "But biological evolution expects babies to be physically in contact with adults and be breast-fed through the night."

McKenna's proselytizing has spawned a community of parents who sleep with their children. But that does not wait



John, Jennifer and Myleike Opeducacials finally getting a good night's sleep

for everyone. Some parents want privacy; others cannot get any rest with an infant flailing about. So when the Opeducacials' neighbours, Mary Lynn Young, 34, and David McGee, 33, had trouble getting their daughter, Jane, now 2½, to sleep, they turned to Ferber. "Ferber's methods made a difference until Jane got sick," Young says. "There we'd take her

Restless Racket

Half of all Canadians snore at some point in their lives, says otolaryngologist Raymond Gottschalk of Hamilton, and half of those have persistent problems. Snoring results from a blockage that impedes breathing—the offender's tongue and palate have slipped towards the back of the throat. Weight gain, which increases fatty tissue in the palate, contributes to the problem. "Snoring," says Gottschalk, "causes lots of little awakenings and fragments your sleep."

Solutions that may vary in effectiveness for different people include surgery to relieve excess tissue at the back of the throat, dental ap-

pliances to pull the jaw forward and keep the airway open, and a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine to constantly push air down the throat. While surgery is often successful, in some cases scar tissue remaining at the back of the throat can perforate during snoring. For Vancouver dentist Richard Kofsky, 52, the CPAP machine provides the relief he sought for years. "It was an annoyance," he says of his snoring. "You violate your partner's sleep, and when you wake up you feel like you've done 15 rounds with Muhammad Ali." He sleeps so quietly now, says Sam McElrobb, the woman in his life, "I check to see whether he's still alive."

Teenagers aren't simply being lazy. Their hormones program them to stay up late and sleep in the next day.

into our bed and when she got better we'd have to re-ferberize her."

Ferber's theory works like this: on night 1, you put your child in his crib and leave the room. If he cries, you wait five minutes before going to him, and even then you don't pick him up, just pat him on the back. If he cries again, repeat the process until he falls asleep. The next night, you follow the same routine, but wait 10 minutes before re-entertaining the room. The third night, you wait 15 minutes, and so on, until your child figures out how to go to sleep on his own. "It was emotionally difficult to do Ferber," says Young. "But you get to the point where you are going to sleep."

Last year, Ferber received a letter, saying there are "plenty of examples of co-sleeping [with parents] where it works as just fine." But many sleep doctors say his methods are still the best way to get a troubled child to sleep. "If people are desperate and they need a program," says Dement, "Ferber is the only game in town."

ON TEENAGE TIME

In *The Promise of Sleep*, Dement defines late childhood as the "golden age of sleep." Remember nodding off in your parent's car after dinner at grandma's? Healthy children can usually sleep soundly for a good 10 hours—until the hormones that mark puberty kick in. That's when they begin to say up late and sleep in. Teenagers' circadian rhythms—their biological clocks—change as they become sexually mature, says adolescent-sleep specialist May Glicksman, professor of psychiatry and human behaviour at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Those changes delay the secretion of sleep-inducing melatonin until later in the evening. That would be OK if teens didn't require almost as much sleep as younger children, but they do—about nine hours a night. The change in circadian rhythm, coupled with academic and social pressures to stay up late and the school-day requirement to rise early, leaves many teens critically sleep-deprived, Canadian says.

She and clinical psychologist Amy Wolfson of College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., have been lobbying to have U.S. high schools start later. Some begin classes as early as 7:10 a.m., a time when, Canadian says, most teenagers are in the middle of their sleep cycle. In Canada, high schools generally open their doors between 8:30 and 9—so classes full of yawning teenagers. Victor Gerchikoff, 16, and his Grade 10 friends from Vancouver's St. Winston Churchill High School are all high achievers in the international basketball program. Busy with soccer practice, an class, 2½ hours of homework and yakking on the phone, Gerchikoff rarely goes to bed before 1 a.m. on school nights. He starts raring at 7 a.m. Although he says he feels no ill effects from running on only six hours of sleep, he often needs to nap

when his gym lesson. Schoolmates Arthur Law and William Hsu, both 15, go to bed around midnight and are up by 7. They often fall asleep in class, killed, they say, by the soporific effect of social studies or French.

That Gerchikoff, Law and Hsu are doing so well at school is a testament to their academic prowess. Researchers have concluded poor sleep can affect learning, particularly for sleep-deprived high-school and university students. In a study of 3,120 Rhode Island high-school students, Canadian and Wolfson found those who received low grades got, on average, 25 minutes less sleep and went to bed



Flowing: the Vancouver sleep clinic sees 2,000 patients a year

40 minutes later than those awarded As and Bs. That does not mean that all students who get less sleep will do poorly, Canadian says, but those who miss valuable REM sleep—the rapid-eye-movement period which dreams occur—may have a harder time learning.

Psychologist Carlene Smith of Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., has determined that REM sleep increases after a new task is learned. But if REM sleep is disrupted, memory retention and motor skills suffer, sometimes in mysterious ways. "Kids at Trent often take all their courses between Tuesday and Thursday," says Smith. "If they think Thursday night and stay up late, they'll lose part of what they've learned on Tuesday and Thursday. But they will keep most of what they learned on Wednesday. We don't know why this happens." A recent study by Dr. Robert Stickgold of the Harvard Medical School in Boston builds on Smith's findings. It shows that when new skills are learned, the information will not be properly retained in the absence of at least six to eight hours of sleep.

Sleep can also affect a young person's mood and behaviour in school, says Canadian. "Teenagers who get little sleep have more anxiety and are often late because they are too tired



Illustration by David Huxford

Researchers are finding that a strong need to fall asleep early, or a tendency to stay up late, are inherited traits



to go to school," she says. Sleep loss may also be linked to depression in young adults. "The data," says Carskadon, "suggests that tired kids react less positively to positive things and more negatively to negative things." Lack of sleep can also lead teenagers into danger: a National Sleep Foundation study shows drowsy young adults between 15 and 24 are responsible for 50,000 automobile accidents a year in the United States.

So what are parents to do? "It's important to develop a routine," Wolfson says. For one thing, he insists that a computer or TV stimulate the visual response and contribute to sleep deprivation. "Young people," says Wolfson, "should stop using the computer and watching television late in the evening."

MIDLIFE SLEEP CRISIS

A lot of accomplished people claim not to need a lot of sleep. Household arts maven Martha Stewart purports to get only four hours a night. So does *Jeopardy!* host Jay Leno. Napoleon, Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, Salvador Dalí and Leonard da Vinci didn't get much sleep either. So television personality Pamela Wallin, who also averages only four hours a night, is in singular company. "I've been an insomniac for as long as I can remember," says Wallin, a Saskatchewan native who lives in Toronto. "I've tried herbal remedies and chamomile tea. I avoid prescription drugs because I can't afford to lose my sharpness the next day." Ultimately, Wallin

regrets her chronic insomnia as something she just has to live with. "If I needed more sleep," she reasons, "I probably wouldn't have gotten done what I have done in my life."

Sleep-two per cent of American experience a sleep problem a few nights a week, according to a National Sleep Foundation study released last month. Two-thirds say sleepiness interferes with their concentration. "We should really get nine or 10 hours of sleep," says psychologist Cohen. "But we're only getting seven. Sleep is not something we value." Family stress, the frantic pace of life and poor bedtime habits all contribute to an epidemic of sleeplessness. Among modern complications: the wired world. "I know people who have a fax machine in the foot of their bed with a loud blower so they can get up in the middle of the night to read their faxes," says Cohen. "The pressure to sleep a 24-hour life is getting worse."

At least many poor sleepers know they need help. About 2,000 people a year use the sleep clinic at UBC, run by psychiatrist Jon Fleming. Thirty-five per cent are their complaints of insomnia, a disorder that often runs in families. Others attend the clinic because of sleep apnea (labored breathing) and narcolepsy (an overwhelming desire to sleep), among other sleep disorders. "The causes of insomnia are legion," says Fleming. "It can be caused by psychiatric conditions or drug and alcohol abuse. But the leading cause is stress." When Vancouver children's bookstore owner Phyllis Simon



From left: Salvador Dali; Wallin; Churchill; Lenin; many accomplished people have functioned on as little as four hours of sleep a night

can't sleep, she gets out of bed for a while and writes a list of all the things she has to do. "I try to transfer my anxiety to the list. Then I'll make myself a cup of warm milk."

But waking up in the middle of the night and then going back to sleep—as Simon sometimes does—can be harder on cognition than not sleeping at all, says University of Montreal psychiatrist Roger Godbout. "Your performance the next day will be worse than if you stay up all night," he explains. While insomnia may lead to fuzzy thinking, those who sleep-circuit sleep by working long hours could also be compromising their physical health. Research at the University of Chicago shows adults who get fewer than seven hours of sleep are more prone to diabetes, high blood pressure and endocrine dysfunction.

Women also report more sleep problems than men—a consequence, often, of their biology. Just before menopause, says Toronto Western Hospital sleep researcher Helen Dwyer, "there is a withdrawal of hormones that triggers poor sleep." Emerging menopause doesn't make it better. Thirty-six per cent of menopausal women polled by the National Sleep Foundation said hot flashes interfered with their night's rest. Sleep investigations are becoming more aware of the effects of the female hormones, estrogen and progesterone, says Dwyer. "Progesterone," she says, "is known with a receptor in the brain that seems to have sleep-inducing qualities."

OLD AND AWAKE

Seven years ago, retired Vancouver family practitioner Jerry White, 82, noticed his sleep began to change. He woke a lot during the night and needed a restorative post-nap nap for at least half an hour. "I find I have to sleep longer," White says. When he worked in his medical practice he got by on six hours of sleep, now, he needs at least eight hours spread through the day. Psychiatrist Julie Carrier of Saint-Coeur hospital in Montreal has determined adult sleep patterns can begin to deteriorate as early as 30, but the changes are not dramatically apparent until old age.

"We know elderly subjects don't sleep well," she says. "They wake a lot and they don't go into the deeper stages of sleep." In fact, many elderly people miss entirely stages 3 and 4—the deepest phases—and have decreased REM time. In addition, older people have an increased sensitivity to noise and can develop disruptive disorders such as sleep apnea and periodic limb movements.

Insomnia in the elderly can also be associated with living alone, having limited activity and using over-the-counter drugs. Dr. Charles Morin of Laval University in Quebec City has determined that such behavioural changes at doing away with daytime naps can do a better job than prescription drugs of improving the sleep habits of the elderly. His findings, reported last year in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, inspired two psychologists at Stanford University—

Ottawa native Derek Loewy and Rachel Marber—to start a group-therapy clinic for insomniacs. "For people who sleep well, going to bed is a pleasurable thing," says Loewy. "For insomniacs it's not. They become anxious, their hearts beat faster and their breathing may change. Insomnia becomes a conditioned response." Behavioural therapy, he adds, tries to undo those responses through relaxation techniques and a revised sleep schedule. According to UBCH's Fleming, however, it is perfectly natural for the elderly to have sleep problems. No matter how healthy our sleep routine is, he says, "after the age of 30 it's basically all downhill."

Last month, Mikayla Ogiyodnick began to sleep a little longer—just two months short of her 57th birthday. Her heavy-lidded pattern decided to stop the afternoon nap to see what would happen. Since then, Mikayla has been waking only once a night. "It's so much better," says mother Jennifer. "I'm still tired, but I hope I will eventually catch up." That may be harder than she thinks. Sleep, like life, rarely seems to be predictable. ■



Godbout: it may be best just to stay up after a bout of insomnia

Family patterns

Researchers believe some insomnia—or the anxiety that leads to it—can be inherited. They are now beginning to understand that other sleep disorders such as narcolepsy (in periodic, overwhelming need to sleep) and familial advanced sleep-phase syndrome (caus-

ing people to go to sleep early in the evening and wake up in the middle of the night) can be genetically induced. "Children born to people affected by familial advanced sleep-phase have a 50-per-cent chance of being affected," says neurologist-geneticist Louis Ptacek of the University of Utah. Ptacek and his colleague Christopher Jones stud-

ied a 60-year-old woman who couldn't help going to sleep around 6:30 each evening and waking around 2 a.m. Her daughter and young granddaughter, they learned, had the same problem. Scientists have also discovered a life-long tendency to get up late is also inherited. Early to bed and early to rise may not simply be a matter of choice

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Sleepless in Modern Society

In northwest Botswana, where the *Kung* people live, deep customs are markedly different from what the Western world has become used to. For starters, that hunting-gathering group sleeps on the ground with, at the most, simple skins or blankets to lie upon. And the *Kung*, like many other traditional societies, never sleep alone. Teenagers bed down in groups with other teenagers, old men with old men. Babies sleep with their mothers and are breast-fed until the age of 5. "Sleep is much more social," says anthropologist Caroll Worthman of Emory University in Atlanta. There is much more napping and, remarkably, little of the deep phase that modern culture values. "People have to keep one eye open for predators," says Worthman, "and make sure the fire doesn't go out." But no one complains of insomnia. Worthman began to study the sleep patterns of traditional communities about two years ago. A pediatrician friend, who studies the impact of mood disorders on sleep, had asked her what anthropologists knew about the history of sleep. "My answer was we know nothing," Worthman told *Medical*. "But this is how people spend a third of their lives. We study how people forage or practice child care, but sleep has never been in the picture." Other anthropologists, too, are turning their minds to various cultures and species' nighttime habits. "We



Kung women and child, their sleep is 'much more social'

time to accommodate their own biology to this. At night, they expect to be next to warm, nursing babies of their mothers." McKenna believes sleeping in mother's bed helps prevent sudden infant death syndrome, encourages breastfeeding and eliminates some sleep problems associated with infancy.

Parenting experts such as Benjamin Spock encouraged separation for preschoolers, says McKenna. They believed co-sleeping with parents could lead to sexual dysfunction in the child. But, he claims, "there is not any evidence or data to indicate that." In fact, until about 100 years ago, parents did sleep with their children. "The separation had to do with changing economic conditions and cultural values," he says.

Just last year, the U.S. consumer products safety commission warned parents not to sleep with their babies for fear of smothering them. But McKenna says that warning is full of holes. Ninety-two per cent of the babies who died in bed in the United States in the past 20 years slept alone, he says. And when smothering did occur, it was often when parents were drunk or drugged.

Parents, McKenna concludes, must do whatever makes them feel comfortable. "Contrary to all those parents books, nobody can describe what your baby is going to do," he says. "There is no such thing as normal infant sleep." Nor is there, as anthropologists and other researchers have found, such a thing as normal adult sleep.

Jennifer Hauser at *Kosmos*

Researchers find traditional cultures are better rested

sleep alone, we have kids' noises—an sounds of bicycles, carrels or dogs—and we have intermittent irregular and windows covered to keep out light," says Worthman. "Maybe this sensory deprivation is contributing to our uneasy sleep."

For anthropologist James McKenna, the birth of his son, Jeff, 22 years ago, got him wondering whether it was natural for babies to sleep apart from their parents. McKenna, who teaches at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, had studied the social structures of monkeys and apes. He realized parents babies stay by their mothers constantly night and day. More than two years ago, he opened a mother-child sleep lab at Notre Dame to study the nighttime habits of newborns and their parents. "In Western culture, we believe the normal way for babies to sleep is in separate rooms," McKenna says. "But babies have not had



☐ Symptoms of prostate disease ☐



medbroadcast.com Canada's source for health information.

As men age, urination problems become common. But this is often the sign of an enlarged prostate, not prostate cancer. So what are prostate diseases? And how are they treated? You'll find answers to these and other men's health issues on our website. Take control of your health.



Governments and charities spend \$70 million a year on children's meal programs, but critics say too many poor kids are still going hungry

Here (sitting) is one of an estimated seven million children in Canada who are still going hungry.

or schools in which they are served. "It is a targeted approach in fighting poverty," she says, "but food programs are not more people than they are."

Proponents of subsidized meals, however, claim their initiatives are essential. Various levels of government and charities inject an estimated \$70 million annually into children's food programs. There are no nationwide figures available, but one organization, Toronto-based Breakfast for Learning, says it supports about 2,000 programs across the country and served 45 million meals last year. Supporters say the spinoff benefits are huge, both for the kids' physical well-being and their academic achievement—research shows that students perform better if they have had a decent breakfast. If anything, they say, Canada should adopt a national plan such as in the

United States, which has had federally mandated breakfast and lunch initiatives in schools for decades. "It's a social change that is happening in Canada," says Martha O'Connor, Breakfast for Learning's executive director. "It's an acknowledgment that children are all of our responsibility."

Hungry kids were supposed to be history in Canada. In 1989, when researchers declared that one in six children was living in poverty, the federal government announced an intention to eradicate child poverty by 2000. But over the past decade, anti-poverty promises were dented by massive cutbacks in federal and provincial assistance programs. Driven by those slashing poverty statistics, meal programs in schools, community centers, church basements and housing complexes began to proliferate. Government (or a generally limited funding) volunteer groups organize the buying, cooking and distribution.

Anti-poverty campaigns don't necessarily want meal programs dismantled. They want governments to inject more money into initiatives that would leave parents with enough money to buy their own food. The poor need affordable housing and day care, they say, and a restoration of funding to various forms of social assistance. Libby Davies, the New Democrat MP for Vancouver East, was involved in that city's funding battles for a lunch program. "We need to vacuum and shake at the federal government," she says, "to address the cause of poverty."

In an exhaustive study of breakfast programs in the Atlantic provinces, Dr. Lynne McIntyre, a professor of children's health at Dalhousie University, concluded that about 75 per cent of

students were not poor. And a 1998 Toronto board of health survey found that families were more often kids whose parents both work and leave only for their jobs, or who are bonded in from outlying areas and are stranded after a long commute. These are students who have to be at school only for extracurricular commitments to sports or clubs, and who then stop for a bite before class. And then there are those of needy children whose meal programs on city sell to governments and private donors alike. "What frustrates me is that they are playing the hunger card," says McIntyre.

Food bank officials are frustrated, too. The Canadian Association of Food Banks reported in March of 1999 that parents of about 324,000 children used food banks—double the number from 10 years before. Yet the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society, which serves solely on private donations, currently provides about 500 kg of food each week to three government-funded agencies that, in turn, supply its meal programs. "We are happy to give the food," says Trevor Dyck, supervisor of distribution, "but the bottom line is it's disturbing the amount of people we serve that are sent here by government agencies." The central food bank in Winnipeg, deluged with similar demand from public agencies, simply turns them down.

"Governments can't keep cutting welfare dollars to a family can't eat," says David Northcutt, director of Winnipeg's main food bank, and then put that money towards meal programs.

Northcutt says too many needy people fall through the cracks. Deanna Schick, a 31-year-old single mother of two preschoolers, now works as an administrative assistant at a Winnipeg church where she had volunteered for a year. But before she got the job, Schick survived on social assistance, and after taking care of the mortgage, household bills and day-care fees while she was looking for a job, Schick didn't have much money left for food. There was no nearby meal program, so twice a month she relied on the local food bank, even if it often meant going without crucial



McIntyre: "they are playing the hunger card"

A Food Fight Heats Up

By Susan McClelland

Every weekday, Mitchell Barden arrives at John Martin Junior High School in Dartmouth, N.S., by 8:15 a.m. He's not there to study or to take part in an extracurricular activity. Mitchell goes for a free breakfast, available through a program the school set up in 1997. It's a self-serve kitchen, and the 13-year-old usually grabs a glass of milk and makes a sandwich out of an egg, some cheddar cheese and an English muffin.

While Mitchell enjoys the chance to hang out with friends before class, his mother, Janice, appreciates the food—food she can't always afford to provide herself. As a single mother, she has struggled to make ends meet since arthritis forced her to leave a high-paying job as a fish-plant worker more than 10 years ago. Soon after, she and her husband separated, and Janice was left to support her three sons—Mitchell is the youngest—on a monthly disability cheque of \$400. Although Janice, 44, has taken courses in cooking and meal management, she has not been able to find a job, and now relies on welfare to pay the rent. Before Mitchell started to

attend the breakfast program, he tried to help his mother out by skipping meals. "It didn't work, though," he says. "I used to think about food all the time. I would sit in class and think about how I can't wait for lunch."

It's difficult to argue with initiatives that feed hungry children, yet subsidized meals have become a flash point in an increasingly heated debate over how to fight poverty in this country. Critics say that although the meal programs receive government funding, the job of feeding the poorest Canadians has fallen largely on food banks that generally receive no public money at all. That's because many of the poorest children don't live where meal programs are available, or their parents are not aware the programs exist. What's more, the majority of kids using the subsidized meals are not from poor families, because the programs are open to everyone. That, researchers say, means the public funds are doing far less to combat poverty than they should. Sue Con, executive director of the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto, says that the effectiveness of meal programs is limited to the few areas



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Life

anne such as baby formula, fruit and vegetables. There was one week when she was able to buy milk only because she found a \$5 bill on the street. "The toughest thing is hearing your children cry because they are hungry," she says. "It's so hard."

Mist programs provide an essential service in many areas. At a North Toronto housing project, for instance, the National Council of Jewish Women started a program a year ago to feed kids in the project a wholesome breakfast three days a week. "It makes things a little easier," says Ross Ilyes, whose three daughters, Nataly, 9, Danielle, 7, and Sarah, 5, attend regularly. Since 1996, when her marriage dissolved and Ilyes was forced to live in a shelter, then in a subsidized apartment, she has battled to make ends meet. "I used to worry about how I was going to feed my girls," says Ilyes. "Now I don't."

Proponents say mist programs are looking to expand their services. In 1997, the nonprofit Breakfast for Learning, which administers some provinces' feeding for food programs, asked several federal ministries for about \$20 million to support its national program. None of the federal ministries has committed so far, but Health Canada did give the agency \$250,000 to study the issue. Brian Ward, director of the childhood and youth division at Health Canada, says mist programs work when administered at a community level. "Our goal," he added, "is to come up with the best ways this can be done."

Before agreeing to any funding, Health Canada undertook its own study into whether mist programs are sound social policy and what role the federal government should assume. But in a time when so many programs are going begging, governments may decide there are other priorities. "We have been going the last few years on a wing and a prayer," says study author David Hay, a principal at Information Partnership, a research firm on social policy in Victoria. "Now we need to take a hard look at what is being delivered, and to whom."



Ann Dowsett Johnston

A map to prosperity

Last month, high-tech billionaire Michael Saylor made a beck of a donation to public education. The 35-year-old CEO of Virginia-based MicroStrategy Inc. plunked down \$150 million for the establishment of an online university designed to offer "an Ivy League quality" education to anyone in the world, free of charge. His vision: professors will tape their lectures, also free of charge, for the sheer virtue of educational exposure. The way Saylor sees it, it's a small world after all—and with high-tech as a helpmate, it ought to be a smart one, too.

Generous idea, but I have a few questions. For starters, who will vet that lecture lineup? As one writer joked, finding good information on the Internet is like searching for the perfect husband in the Alaska Gold Rush: the odds are good, but the goods are odd. And beyond giving voice to a genius or two, what part of an Ivy League education does Saylor think he can replicate? Certainly not small classes, unless you can persuade yourself that a laptop on your kitchen table represents an intimate tutorial. Certainly not access to brilliant faculty, unless you call e-mail-to-screen contact a meaningful interchange.

Still, Saylor's idea is significant, if only for its determination to broaden access to higher learning. Such is the American way in recent years, the United States has made enormous investments in higher education. Between the 1995-1996 and 1999-2000 academic years, state allocations increased by 28 per cent. In California, they shot up 50 per cent. And that's aside of the bonfire! Spending on higher education slipped 10 per cent across Canada. A cautionary tale, given that most political leaders are well-versed in the rhetoric of the knowledge economy, where brains are the primary resource on which nations compete.

Now, most provinces have weighed in with their new budget commitments, and it's interesting to see where putting their money where their mouth is. What we have here is a series of pie-in-the-sky experiments in public policy, experiments that will have huge ramifications for higher education in each province, and for future students. It's no secret that Canada is expecting a 25-per-cent growth in university demand over the next decade. And as those echo-boom students bang on their doors, universities must have cash in their pockets to hire 32,000 new faculty over the same period. Cash for faculty, and for upgrading their facilities this week, a new report will announce that the real tax for deferred

university education in Canadian universities now sits at \$3.6 billion.

So, which provinces deserve top marks for forward thinking? Alberta, certainly, for boasting opening and research dollars, and for the establishment of the \$500-million Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research. British Columbia is well, for putting significant money on the table, clearly recognizing that the only way to evolve from its resource-based machine is through investment in knowledge creation. Ditto Saskatchewan. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland made admirable increases in operating funds, but New Brunswick dropped the ball. That week, Nova Scotia will likely follow suit, or worse.

Manitoba has yet to weigh in. Last month, Quebec came through with flying colours, after years of unimpressive. Still, university presidents are re-serving their appetite. "The province has yet to design its 'performance contracts,' which will determine how a large portion of the funding will be divided up."

In other words, the deal is in the details, and nowhere is that more true than in Ontario. While there are high hopes for new funding in the May budget, universities are asking from the recent announcement of a miraculous increase in operating grants. But the real story lies in Ontario's future performance-based funding formula. Half the new money is tied to three indicators: the graduation rate of students, plus their success in securing employment both in months and two years after graduation. Those ranked in the top third of each category will receive up to double the funding of those in the middle third; those in the bottom will receive nothing.

Unlike the formula used in Alberta, which rewards institutions for individual improvement, Ontario's system pits each university against the next. Statistically, the difference between employment rates is marginal: on average, 96.7 per cent of students secure employment two years after graduation. Using the Alberta employment indicators, all 17 Ontario universities would fall in the highest performance threshold, be rewarded accordingly—and be better prepared for their share of echo-boom students, the largest in Canada.

As it stands, several Ontario universities will be punished—and that punishment will be borne by the next generation. Michael Saylor will gain the odd customer and Ontario will lose in the long run. Look, but it is nothing but folly, pending in public administration.



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta



Pratt: a kinesiology degree and a fondness for rubber pants

Sci-fi heroine

Victoria Pratt fights mutants for fun

Science-fiction bibles draw huge followings: TV characters Xena the Warrior Princess, Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Agent Scully (*The X-Files*) all have cultish fan bases. Chances are, across Victoria Pratt is confronting such a world with her role as Sage on Glob's new sci-fi series *Glycerine* 2525. "The *Glycerine* cast were to a convention of *Xena* fans the day our show premiered," says Pratt, 28, "and people were already there on our costumes. That's dedication."

After appearing on two episodes of *Xena, Warrior Princess*, Pratt—who has a kinesiology degree from York University in Toronto—was offered a part on *Glycerine*. The show's intriguing novel premise is that the title character went in for breast-enlargement surgery in 2025 and woke up 500 years later in the presence of two futuristic female warriors who, cloaked in rubber outfits, battle mutants. Naturally, the newly augmented arm joins in. "We are three strong women taking on enemies of the future," says Pratt. "I don't think I could fight 20 mutants in chutes and button-down shirts. I have to be in my rubber pants."

Always a bridesmaid

Bonnie Hunt is one of those actresses who always plays sister or friend. In films such as *Only You*, *Random Hearts* and *Jerry Maguire*, the often level-headed advice and a shoulder to cry on. "I have always been so frustrated by that," says Hunt, 35, "and I wished and wished I could play the lead." So when she made her directing debut with *Return to Me*—a romantic comedy the co-wrote—it seemed likely Hunt would fulfil that wish. But she gave *Miracle Driver* the lead opposite David Duchovny—and cast herself, again, as best friend. "I thought first time out it was too much to direct and act," says Hunt. "And I really wanted Matten."

A veteran of *Second City* and television writing, the Chicago-born Hunt co-wrote the movie, tapping anger with Canadian Drew Lake. It attracted veteran actors Carroll O'Connor and Robert Loggia—and their involvement made Hunt see-



Hunt, casting herself as best friend in her directorial debut

vous. "I thought, 'What am I going to do,'" she says, "and Carroll O'Connor and Robert Loggia, 'once more with feeling.'" So she filled the rest of the car with people she could easily boss around, including her mother, brother, sisters, niece and nephews. They reminded her she is first and foremost a friend and sister.

Game, sponsor and match

Last week, the women's Canadian Open tennis tournament announced its new title sponsor for 2001: AT&T Canada and Rogers AT&T Wireless (parent Rogers Communications Inc. owns both the wireless company and *Madabout*). That news might not have drawn much notice—if it wasn't for Mary Pierce. The Montreal-born star, 25, who attended the Toronto news conference, is the world's fourth-ranked player and is engaged to ex-Blue Jays baseball star Roberto Alomar. More important for sponsors, she represents a tour in which TV ratings depend on the men's game. Since most women's sports are dwarfed by competing men's events, that success is significant. Glamorous Pierce says, is not the only reason fans seem to prefer the women's game. "Recreational players," Pierce says, "can relate better to the way we play."

(to be continued...)

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Rethinking the Big Apple

E. L. Doctorow presents New York as a microcosm of a fragmented world

By John Benrose

E. L. Doctorow is carefully constructing his answer to a reporter's question. The 69-year-old author chooses his words deliberately—a craftsman searching for just the right tool. Sitting in his downtown Toronto hotel room, he makes an air of studied calm and control, as if he could induce the language to produce exactly the effect he wants. Yet as the author of novels including *Ragtime* (1975) and *Idiot's Paradise* (1989), novels how he came to write his 11th and latest, *City of God* (Random House, 272 pages, \$36), he gives a glimpse of another, less masterful Edgar Lawrence Doctorow—the one who sits alone with his word processor, struggling not just to write something, but to figure out what it is he's writing. "I never start a book with some grand plan in mind," he says in his soft New York accent. "It's more like a private mental excitement—an image or an idea—and it can take me some time to figure out where it's heading."

... the case of *City of God*, Doctorow found himself writing an account of the origins of the universe. Based on the big bang theory, the passage eloquently described the mysterious expansion of all space and matter from a tiny point—and the daunting inability of the human mind to grasp the phenomenon. Remembers Doctorow, "I wrote that page or so of material in the first person—and then began to wonder who this person, this 'I' was. He had a very good grasp of language, a real



The author's major multicultural races carry 'a sense of the future'

flair, and it occurred to me that perhaps he was a professional writer."

Doctorow chuckles as he says this, well aware he is playing with delicate musical tension: the person he is describing sounds an awful lot like himself. Yet he insists the narrator of his book, a New York City screenwriter called Everett—for so he named out to be—is not E. L. Doctorow. "I can't write fiction in my own voice," Doctorow says. "That's a discovery I made early in my career. I have to have a new narrator for each book." It's a technique that has injected a huge variety into his output, lending quite different voices to novels such as *Lonesome Luke* (1980) and *The Waterworks* (1994). His books have won a slew of major American awards (though the Pulitzer has eluded him), while several have been turned into movies and one, *Ragtime*, became a hit musical produced by Canadian Garth Drabinsky.

With *City of God*, Doctorow has returned to the experimentalism and strange social inquiry of his 1971 masterpiece, *The Book of Daniel*. Both novels take the form of a notebook, a device

that allows Doctorow a wide freedom of invention. In the notebook that is *City of God*, Everett scribbles down random observations of New York life, stories from the two world wars, bits of science and philosophy, and the lyrics of popular songs as well as ideas for screenplays and novels. It all adds up to a vast, kaleidoscopic—and often confusing—picture of human life at the end of the 20th century.

New York is the main focus, but the *City of God* like book takes its title from St. Augustine's great theological work of the same name; it really may represent city confronting the onslaught of history and global change.

Offering a rationale for his book's disjointed postmodernist form, Doctorow says: "We don't think in a linear fashion like we did even 50 years ago. Our minds are like clouds of Web sites that we keep hopping between. We get meaning from discontinuity. We're the culture of the short take. I think the book is almost a template for this contemporary mind of ours." And with a twinkle in his eye, he paraphrases the American writer Mary McCarthy: "When people in the 19th century read a novel, they wanted to know what was going to happen. Now, we just want to know what's happening."

Yet through all its convolutions, *City of God* creates a gripping sense of the moral and spiritual dilemmas faced by humans at the turn of the millennium. At the core of Everett's notebook is the tale of a radical Anglican minister, Tom Pemberton. After a large brain cross is

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Books

taken from his church, he discovers it on the roof of a progressive synagogue run by a pair of trained robbers, Joshua Green and Sarah Blumenthal. They are as upset by the apparent sacrilege to Thomas, but the migrating crew carries a deeper meaning than any of them can fathom at the moment. Not until Joshua dies and Tom, in the process of converting to Judaism, marries the voluptuous Sarah, does anyone—including the reader—realize that what has just happened is a mingling of Christianity and Judaism.

That marriage of faith must be understood in the context of the whole novel—which is, in one sense, the recorded evils of the 20th century. Everett's notebook contains many choice sayings of the bloodiest epoch known to man, including a spellbinding re-enactment of the destruction of a Lithuanian Jewish ghetto by the Nazis. Such material creates an enormous pressure in its subtext, *City of God* is arguing that humanity has to find a new way of looking at reality, because the old ways will only lead to the same old destructive behaviour.

It is hardly surprising that Deane now has arranged his novel in his beloved New York, already the setting for several of his books. Today, the novelist lives in a Manhattan apartment with his wife of 45 years, Helen (they have three children), and is an avid walker on the island's crowded streets. "Walking among other creatures too," he says. "And besides, it's the finest way to get around town." But Deane also thinks that cities are a critical proving ground for humanity. "New York, like Toronto or any other major, global, multicultural city, carries a sense of the future. Whether we end up, as a result of planetary stress, in an apocalyptic mess, or whether we can make it all work, will be decided here, in streets like this." And he heads towards the window where, in the street outside, the local version of the City of God is tangled in a traffic jam, honking and growling its way through the spring sunbath. ☐

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Burning up the guitar again

Jeff Healey and his band are back with bittersweet songs and awesome licks

By Nicholas Jennings

Five years can seem like an eternity in the music world, where artists are fast-tracked to fame one day only to be presumed to obscurity the next. But there's how long it's been since the last Jeff Healey Band album, *Cover to Cover*, since that time when Healey, whose face once appeared on dozens of magazine covers and on the movie screen

The blind guitar virtuoso insists that the past five years have actually had more to do with career preservation. "We've been pretty busy," Healey says in his typically understated way. The 34-year-old Toronto musician explains that he and his band mates, bassist Joe Rockman, 43, and drummer Tom Stephen, 45, have continued touring and recording even as they pursued ways with Arista Records, the New York City company that issued their first four albums. Now, the group has

if anorthodox, talent. Almost immediately, Healey and his band were stars, with a top-selling debut album, *For the Love*, and an appearance in the 1989 Patrick Swayze movie *Real News*. For the next several years, the trio seemed to be everywhere, touring the world while riding up Top 70 hits like *Cosplay*, *Man* and *Angel Eyes*, winning various Grammy and Juno award nominations and appearing on major U.S. television

Sitting in a dressing room prior to a recent appearance on CTV's *Open House* with Mike Bulford, Healey and his group made it clear that releasing the new album on their own label was the best move they could have made. "Cover to Cover was Arista's idea," says a freshly coiffed Healey. "It was supposed to be a fun project—go in for maybe two weeks and bang out a quick cover album. But between their indecision

and changes of heart, it took a year and a half." The group's new album, however, took twice as long to produce. Recorded mostly in the band's own 24-track studio, a converted two-car garage that adjoins the three-story mansion the trio purchased as its headquarters in Toronto's posh Forest Hill (loquaciously referred to by Stephen as "Healey Manor"), the album was faster by contrast revision. "When you're not chasing yourself by the lion," Rockman admitted, "you tend to focus in more than you normally would."

Still, *Get Me Some* (Force/Universal) represents a strong return to form for the Jeff Healey Band. Songs like *Winch Out* and *Howie B. Burning Down* are full-blown blues-rockers that will appeal to the group's hard-core fans, while ballads such as *I Tried* and *Mamas Georgia* also capture all of the emotion of Healey's tender *Angel Eyes*. Vocally, Healey has nicely rounded berries and his guitar work, especially on the explosive solo of *Finl Biter*, is still phenomenal. Most of the songs deal with love gone sour, rich terrain for any blues artist. And Healey, who was recently divorced from his wife, Krista, knows of



Healey (left), Stephen (back), Rockman, three years in the studio

shows. The group's profile continued to grow with the albums *Hell to Jay* (1990) and *Finl The* (1992), featuring guest appearances by George Harrison and Mark Knopfler. Together, their recordings sold more than two million copies worldwide.

But by the time the band released 1995's *Cover to Cover*, its treatment of songs by Jimi Hendrix, the Beatles and others, the heresy now seemed to be over. Although the album won a Grammy nomination for best instrumental rock performance, critics scorned the group of playing it safe. By year's end, the Jeff Healey Band and Arista Records had severed ties,

what he sings. The last track on the album, *Radio Song*, is a heartfelt tribute to his five-year-old daughter from that marriage.

Besides his daughter and his band's touring and recording, the guitarist has continued to pursue his passion for early jazz. The owner of 25,000 78-rpm recordings of jazz and blues from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, many of which were passed down from his great-grandfather, Healey has been busy writing in to a newspaper with a Toronto Diamond gossip, the *Hot Five* jazzman. This month, Healey returns to the airwaves on CBC with his weekly radio program, *My Kinda Jam*, in which he spins his favourite records from his massive collection.

Meanwhile, the Jeff Healey Band is trying to re-establish itself with audiences, playing mostly clubs instead of concert halls and venues in 21 Canadian cities and 14 European stops. It is, Stephen admits, a humbling experience. "It's like starting over," says the drummer, who handles most of the instrumental duties. "We've gotta get on the tour bus and hit the radio stations and convince people again." There are those who remain skeptical. Ray Danzish, head of Toronto's SRO Management Inc., which handles Rush, the Tea Party and the Matthews Good Band, thinks the group has dug itself a hole by leaving so long between albums. Danzish also believes the group will suffer from a lack of "sympathetic" management. Says Danzish, who would clearly love to add a talent like Healey to his roster: "Tom has done a good job with Arista, but at the end of the day how can band members tell each other the truth about their performances or their needs?"

Healey has heard from skeptics before and remains unwavering in his loyalty to Stephen and Rockman, whose musical talents have sometimes been questioned. "The day that we formed as a band, it was suggested we get a manager, and we never did," says Healey. "Why? Because we're all very headstrong guys. Not successful at others, just more comfortable when we're doing the job ourselves." ■

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Films

Romantic divides

Three directors tackle interracial sex, clenics in a love triangle, and incest

By Brian D. Johnson

"When I really want to do a direct," it's a familiar mantra, and here are three movies from three directors with very different ideas about what it means: James Toback, a version of the old "New Hollywood"—he wrote *The Godfather* (1974) and *Bugsy* (1991)—has shot

against a tree in Central Park, Toback aims to be incendiary. His self-destructing script offers a miskeft plot—a blackmailer (Ben Stiller) betes a college basketball player to mount a sting operation against a hip-hop gangster. But in a sprawling collage reminiscent of *Night on the Moon*, Toback throws across the ring to improvise with non-actors, and cuts his vérité footage with the same jugged rhythms as the sound track—performed by members of the Wu-Tang Clan, who also star in the movie.

The casting is diabolical: Supermodel Claudia Schiffer plays cold-blooded an-



Stiller, director James Toback has created a wildly profane and provocative look at confused racial identity in America

tagonist. All three movies have something to say—about race, religion and abuse, respectively. And all three directors have an attitude towards Hollywood. Toback gives it the finger. Nazim writes an awkward contemporary, and Roth—well, Roth practices a kind of third-core English realism that is about as far from Hollywood as reality is from American football.

Black and White is a profane, satirical and provocative look at confused racial identity in America. From the opening scene, which shows two white teenage girls and a black man having sex, trailing

thorologist writing a thesis about the coexistence of racism while beeping one black man for another. Brooke Shields is a vicious videographer shooting a documentary about white teens who have adopted black culture; a droll Robert Downey Jr. gets along as her gay husband. And boxer Mike Tyson steals the movie in a devastating career after Downey's character keeps hitting on him, he explodes with a fury that could not have been suspected. Downey and Tyson were both on parole during the shoot, and then exchange in the highlight of a movie

that lives for the moment: a molotov cocktail of sex and race that picks up where Spike Lee left off.

Keeping the faith is more farcical fun throughout at, too, in New York and Southern Ben Stiller in a black leather jacket. This time he's playing a rabbi instead of a rounder. It's odd that Nazim, who has honed his talent in such silly dramas as *Private Parts* and *Fight Club*, should make his feature debut with a high-concept comedy—an extended riff on a pre-rabbi joke. But the movie is not as fluffy as its publicity would suggest. Most of the pitfalls used for the trailer, such as the priest catching on fire and drawing himself in holy water, while by its early montage, as if it were on to appease the studio. At the heart of the movie is an engaging story of a love triangle involving two progressive religious leaders and a workaholic executive (Jenna Elfman). The problem is, Nazim can't seem to make up his mind whether he's making *Jules and Jim*, *Manhattan* or *Suez Art*.

The War Zone is routinely consistent from start to finish. Adapted by Alexander Suman from his own 1989 novel, it tells the quietly harrowing story of a middle-class family that has moved from London to the Desha countryside. Everything appears normal. Mom (Tilda Swinton) is pregnant with her third child, and although she gives birth in a car crash on the way to the hospital, the family happily survives. But then the moody 15-year-old, Tom (Freddie Highmore), catches a disarming glimpse of his 18-year-old sister, Jesse (Lara Belmont), with their father.

During natural performances from his first-rate cast, Roth combines intimate realism with the lyrical sweep of the Devon coast. The drama builds to a horrific act of incest in a ruined bunker by the cliffs—a scene that perhaps goes too far. *The War Zone* is not for the faint of heart. But in portraying the meltdown of a nuclear family in its full complexity, Roth shows that he is as powerful a director as he is an actor.

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ROGERS MEDIA

Going toe-to-toe with ballet companies

Last week, **Barbara Moore**, a principal dancer with the Alberta Ballet in Calgary, said the ballet company for wonderful *dramatic*. In January, she was informed that her contract would not be renewed for the 2000-2001 season. The ballerina, who has performed in starring roles during her 13 years with the company, believes her dismissal is related to her recent pregnancy. Moore, 31, gave birth to her first child, Grace, last June. Two weeks later, she started co-sleeping with the company and worked her weight down from 165 lb to 117 lb for her return last fall. "I don't think anybody deserves this," says Moore, who says she is the first dancer with the Alberta Ballet to have had a child while a member of the company. "Especially being a woman and coming back after maternity. It's extremely hard to get your body back into shape and to look longer than I thought it would." Greg Epton, executive director of Alberta Ballet, said she was fired for "artistic incompatibility."



Moore with Grace. Grace (left) fighting to be associated as dancers

This is the second time in a year that a Canadian ballerina has branched a wrongful-dismissal lawsuit against her ballet company. Kimberly Glosow, then 38, filed her suit after she was fired from the National Ballet of Canada in 1998. On March 23, Glosow won an interim ruling that saw her reinstated as principal dancer pending the outcome of arbitration. Last week, she was attending daily practice, but was not taking part in rehearsals.

Comedy

A night of beer and Beavers

The first annual Canadian Comedy Awards had everything a Canucks aficionado fan should have—stars, live beer, a buffet that featured back-bean sandwiches, and plenty of Beavers, the economy's thin maple-leaf shaped trophies. *The Hunt* star 22 Minutes was the biggest winner with four awards, while Don McKellar captured the best sitcom prize for his dandy wacky film *Last Night*. "I don't really consider it a comedy," says McKellar. "But this is nice." The Toronto event was hosted by SCTV alumnus Dave



22 Minutes co-star Rick Mercer: winner

Thomas who reprised a number of his best characters, among them the comic critic Bill Needle, who opened the festivities by lambasting the show, declaring, "The whole thing makes me sick."

The awards night was the brainchild of comic Tim Prothrope, who said "I knew if I made it fun the comedians would come." Some were having more fun than others. No more Mike Beaver was thrown out of the event for lewd behavior. Beavers who enjoyed the show's open bar prior to his exit, said *Merlin's* "You've got to wear something above me. I need the press so I can apply for a [U.S.] green card." Comedian's done

CD Releases

A selection of CDs due for April release

ELTON JOHN'S THE ROAD TO EL CORRALO

This second track for the animated DreamWorks film (currently in theatres) represents a reunion of John with his Los Angeles cohorts, lyricist Tim Rice and composer Hans Zimmer.

GUNO HO Part II Smith

Smith made her rock debut in 1975 with the acclaimed album *Mimesis*, and to celebrate its 20th anniversary she returns with a new CD.

PUNISHING KISS Live Lamer

The German-born cabaret singer belts out theatre music with a touch of rock 'n' roll.



Lamer

CECILEY Low Hood

The singer who came to fame with the Velvet Underground is back with his trademark dark songs about relationships gone sour.

EDD DE SOMBRAS (Echo of Shadows) Susana Baca

The second album from the Afro-Peruvian singer, who combines the historic sounds of black Peru with the improved contributions of her avant-garde band.

Live Poetry

Put aside those novels and biographies—April in National Poetry Month. All across Canada, events are being held in libraries, schools, bookstores and cafes. Thanks in part to the return of 1960s-style poetry readings at cafés and the placement of poetry throughout major museums in many Canadian cities, poetry sales have increased by almost 50 per cent as the past decade. To join the trend, visit The League of Canadian Poets Web site (www.leaguepoets.org) for a list of events and celebrations this month.

Best-Sellers

Fiction

1. **UNUS UNUS** Michael Ondaatje (C) 2
2. **THE ROAD** Cormac McCarthy (B) 2
3. **DRAGONHEART** Michael Chabon (B) 2
4. **RECKLESS WISDOM** Jonathan Safran Foer (C) 4
5. **SHIRLEY** James Alan McPherson (B) 6
6. **A LOUD NOISE** Anita Shreve (B) 10
7. **SHREDDER** John D. MacDonald (C) 2
8. **THE LAST THING HE SAID** John Grisham (B) 2
9. **LOVE OF EMMERSON** Gay Carol (C) 1
10. **THE END OF THE WORLD** J.J. Jackson (B) 2
11. **THE BLOOD OF EMERSON** Cameron Stewart (B) 7

Nonfiction

1. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
2. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
3. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
4. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
5. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
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7. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
8. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
9. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
10. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4

Children's

1. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
2. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
3. **THE NATURE OF ECONOMICS** Jane Jacobs (C) 4
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Jake's story

In 1990, Marlon Edelson's newborn son, Jake, was diagnosed with a rare brain disorder. In addition to severe mental and physical handicaps, doctors predicted he would live only about three years. In *My Journey with Jake* (Between the Lines), Edelson provides a riveting description of the decade since Jake's birth. With an unflinching honesty, Edelson recalls the sorrow, loss of respect and the painful divorce that followed Jake's diagnosis—as well as his love and acceptance of her son. The book is also a tough-minded account of the battles Edelson, a Toronto-based organizer with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and now a disability-rights activist, has fought on behalf of Jake against the medical establishment and government funding cuts. And against the odds, Jake is amazed to see the results—the turn 10 near week.



My Journey with Jake

INTERNET Shopping Guide

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Allan Fotheringham

Laughing with Larry Zolf

Brian Mulroney's finance minister, Michael Wilson, once said that the problem with Canada is that it didn't have enough millionaires. That's not true. The problem with Canada is that it doesn't have enough Larry Zells.

Zell, the ugliest man in the country by his own admission, is the down prince of Canadian humor. He has a mind as sharp as a tack, proof testimony that if you want to be a comedian you have to be a very serious person.

He has just produced his fifth book—imaginatively titled *Zell*—a raffish collection of his essays, talks and musings during his 38 years at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, during which he has done everything but save it from itself.

Everybody in Canadian journalism has a Zelig story. And you don't even have to make them up. They're all true. "I can never believe it," he says, "when people say Jews don't drink. I've got news for them." He had to wait the grace some years back.

He went to school with Barbara Arnold, he roomed with a young Joe Clark, he went down to the Eastern States of America to work with Bobby Kennedy, he worked police for Pierre Trudeau, he survived cancer and alcohol and now, somewhere in his 60s, plans to stick with The Corp until he's 100—just like the Queen Mum.

He was born, so immigrant parents, in Yehudah Leib Zolk. He was known as Leib and on the first day of junior high in gritty North Winnipeg, the schoolyard taught chavim "Leibel, Maibel, poop on the toilet." When they were called into class, the lad in front of him was named Larry. When the teacher then asked Leib Zolk what his name was, he answered "Larry Zolk."

Raised in the fierce socialism of North Winnipeg, he art out for a brief try at law school in Toronto. He tried stand-up comedy as a Canadian Mori Shih in Yorville. He lived a novare with his first wife, Perry, in a dingy basement flat.

When the dour Gerdie Murringer was unclothed in the Diefenbaker era, Zolf was seen out to being on the Montreal door of Pierre Sevrigny, the one-legged cabinet minister who had been identified as one of her lovers. Sevrigny came to the door and, on camera, swung at Zolf with his cane. He now refers to it as his Chinese Case period.


The parliamentary press gallery block-it dinner used to be the highlight of the Owen social season, an off-the-ramp must where all the party leaders had a go at one another.



Trudeau hated the evening. Zolf wrote his jokes and Trudeau—cursing them with the verve of rooting the phone book—walked all over his own punch lines.

The PM five days later ran into the full-on-crazing Zolf in the Centre Block and asked his ghostwriter how he had done. Zolf: "Well, then, here it is. You, sir, couldn't deliver a joke in a Brock's armoured truck." And rustled on his heels and unscathed off.

One of the memorable events in Ottawa's disaster was a lavish gathering of wealthy donors to the "Virtual Development Trust" in the Chateau Laurier ballroom. Peter Gzowski was the MC, the Royal Canadian Air Force were to be the main event. As a short warm-up so-



Unfortunately, there was a comfortable chair onstage. Zeif, a large man, settled in easily and began to read brief excerpts from his forthcoming book.

Fascinated with his own writings, he went on for 10 minutes, 15 minutes. Gosselin looked completely confused. The Air Force, behind the curtain, stirred noisily. The fanboys—Richard Mathieu, premiere of *News* Brunswick, stood up, waved his white napkin over his head and shouted "Scorp! Scorp!"

Zelf raised his eyes, said, "As the Marmosins say, 'Turkish off,'" and resumed reading. Finally the entire ballroom rose, all waving their white napkins in surrender, at last driving him from the stage. To this day, this has gone down in Orizaba lore as The Night Larry Zelf Set Down To Read.

Toronto Life sent him to Amsterdam to investigate the Snifler's Quarters, famed as Europe's most lascivious flesh market. Zolf writes "The pleasure ladies who sit in their ragnabunk bunkers, lit by the garish red light, reading their horoscopes, are a depressing lot. For the most part fat, squat, unsmiled, leather-patched, with bulging muscles and tight-lipped eyes, they're a part of swinging Amsterdam that swings the prepubescent back to the Dark Ages. Collectively, they look like a Teamsters union local in drag."

Of his time with Barbara Frum: "I was the first and visible Jew to appear on CBC TV as a reporter, interviewer and host. As such I had this terrible problem. I have a magical false nose and glasses—magical in that the glasses come off, but the nose doesn't."

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